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On the move

Army plans short-term Pacific rotations for thousands of soldiers

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The Army plans to rotate thousands of soldiers from the mainland through short-term Pacific deployments in pursuit of becoming a more expeditionary force, Army officials said Tuesday.

"The forces already assigned will remain assigned," said Gen. Robert Brown, commander of U.S. Army Pacific, referring to the roughly 85,000 soldiers in the theater, primarily stationed in South Korea, Hawaii, Washington and Alaska.

"We will bring forces from (the mainland) over," he said during a media roundtable at U.S. Army Pacific headquarters that included Army Under Secretary Ryan McCarthy and Gen. James McConville, vice chief of staff of the Army.

SEE ROTATIONS ON PAGE 6



Soldiers from 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division are seen during training as part of a regularly scheduled rotation in Korea.

PETER BOGART/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Navy has enacted most changes recommended after fatal collisions

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy has enacted nearly all the changes recommended in two 2017 reports it ordered after two fatal collisions at sea involving U.S. warships, the vice chief of naval operations recently told Congress.

Of the 117 changes the reports recommended — later trimmed to 103 — 91 were put in place,

according to a Feb. 25 memorandum to Congress by Adm. William Moran. Those changes were meant to address years of underfunded operations, an increased pace of operations and an erosion of safety standards, according to the reports.

Navy Secretary Richard Spencer ordered the reports to identify problems that led to the separate tragedies involving ships of the Japan-based 7th Fleet. He tasked the Navy with conducting a comprehensive review in August 2017

and the following month asked an independent team of subject matter experts to conduct a separate strategic readiness review.

The USS Fitzgerald collided with a Philippine container ship in June 2017, killing seven sailors. Two months later, the USS John S. McCain ran into a Liberian merchant vessel, resulting in the deaths of 10 sailors.

Both destroyers sustained millions of dollars in damages.

SEE CHANGES ON PAGE 6

Of the 117 changes the reports recommended — later trimmed to 103 — 91 were put in place.

MILITARY

AFRICOM denies US airstrikes killed civilians in Somalia

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. airstrikes have caused the deaths of numerous civilians in Somalia, where the military's targeting methods could be in violation of international law, a new human rights report said Wednesday.

U.S. Africa Command has expanded its counterterrorism mission in Somalia with the number of airstrikes tripling since April 2017 — a spike that coincides with a Trump administration policy to grant military commanders broader authority. During that time, AFRICOM public statements announcing strikes have repeatedly said that no civilians were believed to have been caught in the raids.

However, Amnesty International in a report released Wednesday found five incidents in which 14 civilians were killed and eight injured in strikes. During its investigation, Amnesty said it found "credible evidence" that U.S. strikes in Lower Shabelle — an administrative region in southern Somalia — were responsible for four of the incidents and that the fifth was "most plausibly" caused by a U.S. airstrike.

The reported attacks happened between April 2017 and December 2018.

"In the incidents presented in

this report, civilians were killed and injured in attacks that may have violated international humanitarian law (IHL) and could, in some cases, constitute war crimes," Amnesty International said in its report called "The Hidden U.S. War in Somalia."

Hours before the release of the Amnesty report, AFRICOM announced that it carried out another strike in Somalia, which it said killed three terrorists.

"Also, we are aware of reports alleging civilian casualties resulting from this airstrike," AFRICOM said in a Tuesday statement. "As with any allegation of civilian casualties we receive, U.S. Africa Command will review any information it has about the incident, including any relevant information provided by third parties."

Regarding the Amnesty report, AFRICOM said Tuesday: "Our assessments found that no AFRICOM airstrike resulted in any civilian casualty or injury. Our assessments are based on post-strike analysis using intelligence methods not available to non-military organizations."

During its investigation, Amnesty International said it interviewed retired Brig. Gen. Donald Bolduc, former head of U.S. Special Operations Command Africa, who described targeting methods to the group.

While Bolduc did not oversee



Michael B. Keller/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Air Force F-15E Strike Eagles drop 2,000-pound joint direct attack munitions. A recent Amnesty International report claims that U.S. Africa Command airstrikes in Somalia have killed civilians.

the five incidents detailed in the report, Amnesty said targets were considered to be lawful based on four criteria: "age, gender, location, and geographical proximity to Al-Shabaab," the report said.

"According to General Bolduc, all military-aged males observed with known Al-Shabaab members, inside specific areas — areas in which the U.S. military has deemed the population to be supporting or sympathetic to Al-Shabaab — are now considered legitimate military targets," Amnesty reported.

In a response to the AI report, AFRICOM said "BG Bolduc's [sic] purported articulation of targeting standards does not accurately reflect the targeting standards of AFRICOM or the [Department of Defense]."

The report spotlights a military campaign that has steadily intensified for several years, generally away from the public eye.

While AFRICOM publicizes its many airstrikes in the country, its

assertions that no civilian casualties are getting more scrutiny. Amnesty also said not all strikes are publicly acknowledged by AFRICOM. In its response to Amnesty's allegations, AFRICOM said in four of the strikes at issue, civilian casualties were unlikely "based on contradictory intelligence that cannot be disclosed because of operational security limitations."

AFRICOM denied carrying out the fifth incident listed by Amnesty.

Amnesty called on the U.S. to conduct an independent investigation, acknowledge civilian casualties and offer compensation to the families of survivors.

The Pentagon says it has about 500 military personnel in Somalia, where AFRICOM conducted 47 airstrikes in 2018 and 35 the year before. AFRICOM has launched about 30 strikes in 2019.

Somalia has emerged as AFRICOM's main effort during the

past three years. U.S. special operations troops also serve on the front lines in the country as advisers to government forces.

The military push comes ahead of the anticipated departure in 2020 of a multinational African force, which has led the decade-long battle in Somalia against the insurgents. The U.S. aim is to weaken the group and prepare government forces to lead the fight once the African Union force ends its deployment.

Amnesty said security concerns and access restrictions prevented it from doing on-site investigations for its probe. Instead, interviews took place in person or over encrypted voice calls placed from phones located outside al-Shabaab-held territory, the organization said.

Amnesty said it interviewed 65 witnesses and survivors of the five alleged U.S. airstrikes at issue.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 28.

MILITARY

Ship-in-a-box becomes model training tool

Coast Guardsmen in Bahrain share tactics with Navy, partners in Middle East

By JOSHUA KARSTEN
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — The boarding party swept through the boat, rifles at the ready, looking for stashes of illicit cargo, but they wouldn't encounter the typical challenges — livestock, rotting fruits and vegetables, or hostile crews — and they weren't even at sea.

Dubbed the “ship-in-a-box,” the full-scale fishing dhow inside a warehouse has become a key training tool in efforts to combat threats in Middle East waters, such as drug trafficking, that fund extremists in places like Afghanistan.

It's run by the Maritime Engagement Team, a group of 10 U.S. Coast Guardsmen who specialize in maritime enforcement operations.

Known as the MET Facility, the compound also includes a pair of stacked shipping containers simulating cargo aboard a ship and is in high demand from U.S. and partner forces.

The team recently took Stars and Stripes on a walk-through of the facility to show how it uses it to practice safety sweeps, close-quarter battle techniques, quick exits and searches.

“They're searching for illicit materials and we're trying to deter illicit activities,” said Coast Guard Capt. John Gregg, the team's commander. “Sometimes there are narcotics that are found, and we have had experiences where boarding teams have found weapons.”

The facility has been around since 2003, mainly to keep Coast Guard members up-to-date on qualifications, but it has recently become a valuable training environment where the Americans and partner countries can share best practices. The team's 2019 calendar is already fully booked, officials said.

“We realized that we really had the capacity here, and as we began to build our own capability with this facility, it really had a lot of promise,” Gregg said. “So, we started to have engagements with partners and that demand signal grew.”

Last year, 27 countries sent nearly 800 participants to the facility.

Earlier this year, security forces from four Gulf countries came together with the Americans at the facility for an exercise in ship-boarding tactics.

“Each country has unique methods when it comes to inspection and approach,” said Capt. Saleh Alforday of the Kuwaiti coast guard, in a U.S. Army video in January highlighting the exercise involving Kuwaiti, Saudi,



PHOTOS BY JOSHUA KARSTEN/Stars and Stripes

A fishing dhow rests in a facility known as a “ship-in-a-box,” which is used to train servicemembers from the Coast Guard, Navy and partner nations in procedures used to visit, board, search and seize on the high seas.



Coast Guardsmen Petty Officer 2nd Class Philip Cook, left, and Petty Officer 3rd Class Jake Brasker, of Patrol Forces Southwest Asia's Maritime Engagement Team, demonstrate boarding tactics.

Bahraini and Emirati teams. “This exercise was held on the basis of standardizing methods of inspection, uniting our understanding and theories and creating a foundation for cooperation and relationships between the largest nations in the Arabian Gulf.”

The increased demand for the facility comes as boarding parties, known as visit, board, search and seizure teams, have scored some of the largest smuggling busts since the Combined Maritime Force here transitioned from a U.S. force to a multinational counterterrorism and maritime security coalition after 9/11.

Just before Christmas, the British destroyer HMS Dragon boarded a pair of dhows carry-

ing nearly 11 tons of illegal drugs — the largest CMF bust so far. In December and January, the U.S. destroyer USS Chung-Hoon busted two more vessels hauling about 10 tons of hashish in the Gulf of Aden.

To hone their skills prior to the busts, Chung-Hoon's boarding team had trained at the ship-in-a-box and had received training onboard their own ship.

“I am grateful that Chung-Hoon was able to play a small part,” Cmdr. Brent Jackson, the ship's skipper, said in a statement following one of the drug busts.

Although the MET trains for many scenarios, U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Philip Cook said that most boarding parties encounter cooperative

crewmembers. During practice runs, participants have fun with role-playing and hand-to-hand combat exercises that add authenticity to the experience and prepare them for less compliant crews.

Any flagless vessel is deemed “stateless” under international law and patrols seek out such vessels for boarding, using a checklist to assess red flags, or what the team calls “tripwires,” that represent threats or questionable behavior and set the tone for a boarding.

“Our job is to establish positive control,” said Cook, who said he enjoys sharing tips on how to find hidden compartments.

Positive control could mean dealing with combatant crew members, clearing spaces with questionable cargo or providing medical assistance, he said.

Many partner navies in the region conduct coastal operations as part of their daily missions, a sharp contrast to the deep-water

U.S. Navy, officials said. The MET specializes in those coastal engagements.

“They are great at partnering with regional navies and coast guards,” said U.S. Navy Capt. Adan Cruz, commodore of all surface patrol forces in the 5th Fleet. “Because of the Coast Guard presence here, it makes it easier to engage with the other regional coast guards who are doing similar operations.”

Of the 20 U.S. ships permanently stationed in Bahrain, six of them are Coast Guard cutters.

“Most navies are not in the business of power projection. They're in the business of enforcing sovereignty,” Gregg said. “Most other countries, whether it's navy or coast guard, are in the business of fisheries enforcement, counternarcotics, search and rescue — missions that very much dovetail with what the U.S. Coast Guard does.”

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Dummies used for close combat training are stored in a facility used to train U.S. and partner nations on ship-boarding procedures.

EUROPE

Air Force B-52s in England for NATO exercises

By WILLIAM HOWARD

Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — The six B-52 Stratofortresses deployed to RAF Fairford will spend an undetermined amount of time at the base for training with U.S. forces and NATO allies, Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Harrigan said Tuesday.

The long-range strategic bombers with the 2nd Bomb Wing out of Barksdale Air Force Base, La., arrived at the British base last week along with about 600 airmen and their equipment.

The B-52s will operate out of Fairford, U.S. Air Forces in Europe — Air Forces Africa's forward operating location for



Harrigan

bombers.

"While here, the bombers will integrate into our U.S. and allied forces to demonstrate the strength of NATO operability of joint and combined arms teams," Harrigan, USAF's deputy commander, told reporters.

Deployment of the bombers to Europe is part of Operation Atlantic Resolve, which is aimed at reassuring NATO allies concerned about Russia's military assertiveness.

During the post-Cold War era, it was relatively rare to send long-range bombers



WILLIAM HOWARD/Stars and Stripes

The crew of a B-52 Stratofortress poses for photos during a press event at RAF Fairford, England, on Tuesday.

to Europe, but recent tensions with Russia have prompted the Air Force to incorporate the aircraft into more alliance exercises.

Last year, three B1-B Lancers from

Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, deployed to Fairford for a month in May for NATO exercises BALTOPS and Saber Strike. A B-52 from Barksdale arrived in September

for Saber Strike.

And in May 2017, a flight of Stratofortresses from the 2nd Bomb Wing deployed to RAF Fairford for similar exercises across Europe.

Unlike in past years, the B-52s deployed to Europe this spring are slated to conduct training events simultaneously with B-52s deployed to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, in what U.S. European command said earlier this week was a "clear and visible demonstration of U.S. commitment to global allies and partners."

Since 2004, the U.S. has rotated B-1, B-52 and B-2 long-range bombers out of Guam to conduct training missions in Asia as part of the INDOPACOM's "continuous bomber presence."

In recent weeks, the bombers have garnered headlines after flying a series of flights over the South China Sea.

EUCOM and INDOPACOM closely coordinated the cross-command training effort with U.S. Strategic Command, along with USAF in Germany, Pacific Air Forces in Hawaii and Air Force Global Strike Command in Louisiana, EUCOM said.

"The ability to operate in the different environments at the same time and demonstrate global reach and the capacity to do that in a timeline that synchronizes our efforts is really a tremendous opportunity for our collective teams in both theaters," Harrigan said.

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THE NEW SANNO

PACIFIC

Cutter in East China Sea with eye on N. Korea

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A U.S. Coast Guard cutter tasked with enforcing United Nations sanctions against North Korea completed a patrol of the East China Sea earlier this month.

The cutter Bertholf arrived March 3 at Sasebo Naval Base, according to a statement issued Monday by U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area.

The U.N. Security Council has imposed a number of economic sanctions on North Korea in response to its developing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

The Coast Guard helps enforce those sanctions by keeping a lookout for prohibited ship-to-ship transfers of fuel, such as coal, and goods.

The Coast Guard did not say whether the Bertholf had interrupted any illicit transfers.

The Bertholf, first of the Coast Guard's new National Security cutters, left its homeport of Alameda, Calif., with its crew of 170 on Jan. 20 for deployment in the Western Pacific.

The cutter's presence also reinforces the U.S. commitment to keeping the East China Sea open to navigation, according to the Coast Guard.

"The United States is a Pacific nation," Vice Adm. Linda Fagan, commander of the Coast Guard Pacific Area, said in the statement. "We have deep and



JOHN MASSON/U.S. Coast Guard

The Coast Guard cutter Bertholf patrols the Western Pacific in January. The ship this month patrolled the East China Sea as part of its task of enforcement of UN sanctions against North Korea.

long-standing ties with our partners in the region, and more importantly, we share a strong commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific, governed by a rules-based international system that promotes peace, security, prosperity and sovereignty of all nations."

Prior to its patrol in the East China Sea, the Bertholf hosted Japan Coast Guard officers aboard the ship during a visit to Yokosuka.

"The U.S. Coast Guard is proud to operate with our Pacific counterparts," Fagan said. "Together we are dedicated to enhancing our capabilities and strengthening maritime governance and security while promoting individual sovereignty."

The Bertholf is operating under the tactical command of the 7th Fleet during its Pacific deployment.

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US intelligence head meets with South Korea president

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — President Moon Jae-in met with the U.S. intelligence chief Wednesday in Seoul amid concern over a stalemate in nuclear talks with North Korea.

Moon and Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats "held wide and in-depth discussions and exchanged opinions on issues concerning South Korea and the United States," the presidential office said in a statement.

It did not provide more details, but Coats' visit came three weeks after the second summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ended without an agreement over efforts to persuade the North to give up its nuclear weapons.

Moon, who is eager for peace with the North, has directed his administration to get Pyongyang and Washington back to the table.

Trump and Kim left Hanoi, Vietnam, after failing to bridge the gap between the North's desire for relief from punishing economic sanctions and U.S. demands for complete denuclearization.

North Korea has warned that it's considering ending nuclear talks and lifting a long-range

missile testing moratorium if the United States doesn't reciprocate for steps already taken toward denuclearization.

Trump, who has consistently cited the suspension of missile and nuclear tests as an indicator of diplomatic progress, said he would be disappointed if that happens. Kim is expected to decide on the moratorium soon.

In January, Coats welcomed the fact that the North had "halted its provocative behavior" with the testing moratorium. But he told senators at an intelligence committee hearing that the communist state was "unlikely to completely give up its nuclear weapons" because it sees them as key to regime survival.

North Korea already has rebuilt a launch site that it had partially dismantled as part of disarmament steps last year, according to recent satellite images.

However, no new activity has been detected at the Sohae Satellite Launching Station, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"There has been no activity of significance at the vertical engine test stand or launch pad since our last report," which was on March 9, the think tank said Tuesday.

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MILITARY

Changes: Navy data show officer-of-the-deck checks saw 91 percent pass tests

FROM FRONT PAGE

A little more than a year after the reports came out, Moran in his memo declared the service "currently safe to operate and a more effective Navy than we were a year ago."

While the memorandum provides the most detail yet on the changes made after the tragic collisions, some in Congress are pushing for more information to ensure safety standards are being met.

In a heated exchange last month, Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, challenged Adm. Philip Davidson, commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, for more detail about the progress of the implementation of the recommendations.

It would be like to see specific data on where we stand with issues like certification of sailors and personnel on the ships, training rules, staffing levels — and I want real numbers," King told Davidson at an Armed Services Committee hearing Feb. 12.

"I don't want general, 'we're working on staffing or we're working on more training' because these were avoidable tragedies,"

Davidson directed King to Moran's report and said those numbers "were all readily available."

The report highlighted several recommendations that have been implemented and offered some numbers, but Moran did not list all changes in his memo.

Moran broke down the recommendations into three tiers of importance: safety, followed by operations effectiveness and, finally, "strengthening the culture of operational excellence."

Safety issues

At the time of the collisions, ships were sent to sea to keep up with a fast pace of operations despite having fallen behind on

'I don't want general, "we're working on staffing or we're working on more training" because these were avoidable tragedies.'

Sen. Angus King
I-Maine

required maintenance and mandatory training for their crews.

The practice of waiving those requirements — called Risk Assessments and Mitigation Plans — was eliminated in October 2017 while the reviews were underway. In their place, the Navy conducted Ready-for-Sea Assessments to evaluate the manning levels, training certifications and equipment status on operational vessels.

In Japan, 15 of 18 ships passed these assessments, while three were "sidelined for additional training and maintenance prior to getting underway."

The report did not identify the sidelined ships, and 7th Fleet officials declined to release their names for security reasons.

The November 2017 comprehensive review also recommended changing crew sleep schedules to better accommodate circadian rhythms and reduce fatigue, which Navy reports identified as a contributing factor in both collisions.

Moran in his memo said all ships reported implementing the suggested sleep schedules since the policy was rolled out in November 2017, but "anecdotal feedback indicates uneven compliance during manpower-intensive operation scenarios."



Stars and Stripes

The USS Fitzgerald, which was damaged in a fatal collision in June 2017, is seen at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, aboard the MV Transoceanic, in November 2017.

Effectiveness and culture

To reduce workloads, the Navy last year put the need for manpower on ships and on shore in overseas locations ahead of the need at U.S. bases, Moran's memo states.

That meant assigning some personnel to temporary duty overseas and putting some operations on hold to make sure forward-deployed ships "went to sea with the manpower they needed," he wrote. Moran said that on average, 100 percent of overseas billets are filled, compared to the Navy-wide 95 percent.

However, a Government Accountability Office official told Congress in December that ship manning still needed improvement.

GAO Defense Capabilities and Management director John Pendleton said many sailors on two Yokosuka-based ships he visited on a research trip last fall reported heavy workloads and 100-hour workweeks.

"I'm concerned that this reveals an underlying problem still facing the Navy — that it simply is not putting enough sailors on

the ships to cover the workload," Pendleton said at a Dec. 12 congressional hearing.

Meanwhile, the Navy increased incentives for sailors to remain overseas longer to boost stability, and in May 2018 increased the standard tour length by one year for Japan, Guam and Spain. Incoming sailors at those locations are now serving up to four years.

When Vice Adm. Robert Burke, chief of naval personnel and deputy chief of naval operations, announced the change last year at a townhall meeting in Yokosuka, he said the intent was to avoid having commands "in a state of continuously having to train up their people and not having a seasoned, experienced crew that can train up the new junior folks."

In the past year, the Navy has also issued several assessments of leadership, including fleet-wide officer-of-the-deck competency checks. Results revealed "deficiencies in practical applications of the Maritime Rules of the Road," but 91 percent of test takers passed the assessments, according to the memorandum. As a result, the Navy developed two new junior officer-of-the-deck courses for training.

Another assessment of surface

warfare officers was improved to better gauge the proficiency of prospective commanding officers. Of the 103 officers who were assessed, five were removed from the command pipeline, according to the memorandum.

More information wanted

King, after reviewing the report, continues to seek out more data related to the Navy's changes.

In a March 10 interview with Defense News Weekly, he said the Navy has "made a good-faith effort to respond" to him and that officials had met with him at the Pentagon. He also commended the service for being "responsive to this tragedy."

Still, King wants more specific data instead of "general reassurances."

"My age-old question is 'does it work and how do you know?' And until I see ship specific data, I'm not going to be satisfied that we're really making the progress that we should be," he told Defense News Weekly.

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Rotations: Plan dovetails with evolving Pacific Pathways, Multi-Domain Task Force

FROM FRONT PAGE

Brown said the number of troops to be tapped annually has not yet been set and would vary depending upon circumstances and the preferences of allies and partner nations hosting the troops.

"It would be a division headquarters and several brigades — you know, 5,000, 10,000 rotating over," he said. "I would hesitate to throw a number out. It'll depend on the scenario. It'll depend on the exercise. There will be a continued focus on the assigned forces staying and the additional forces to come."

McConville described the planned rotations as part of Dynamic Force Employment, a key component of the National Defense Strategy released by the

Pentagon last year, which emphasized America's shift to so-called "great power competition."

"We're talking about moving troops into a place with certain capabilities based on the partners we're dealing with — move them out and move them back," he said. "And then have the agility to move around the globe and in this theater the way we need to in response to our partners."

"They're expeditionary. They're rotational. They're not permanent. They're not permanent. But we can have the agility we need to, depending on the mission requirements."

The beefed-up rotations would dovetail with U.S. Army Pacific's evolving plans for Pacific Pathways and the new Multi-Domain Task Force.

Pacific Pathways, which

launched in 2014, strings together already established Army exercises with allies and partner nations throughout the Pacific as a way of keeping U.S.-based troops and equipment deployed beyond the International Date Line for extended periods.

During the first several years, the rotations were a matter of a few weeks. This winter, soldiers spent 3½ months in Thailand and are now in the Philippines for four months of joint training, Brown said.

"Next year it will be six months," he said. The Army's Multi-Domain Task Force program was piloted in the Pacific and this year is moving on to Europe for its second phase.

During the Pacific pilot, an artillery brigade stood as first headquarters while integrating

with an intelligence, cyber, electronic warfare and space detachment. The task force was first tested at a ship-sinking exercise during last summer's Rim of the Pacific drills in Hawaii.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley has since directed the Multi-Domain Task Force be built up to counter potential attempts by adversaries to deny access in those domains by U.S. forces.

Brown said the multidomain concept is crucial because any conflict scenario in the Pacific would require a "joint solution" involving all service branches.

"Any issue that would develop in the South China Sea, all the forces are going to have to work together to be successful to handle that," Brown said. "Nobody's asking for hot. Competition doesn't mean conflict; we don't want that."

But in any scenario you can come up with in the Pacific, it would be a joint solution."

Positioned on any of the theater's 25,000 islands, the Army could potentially enter any fray with long-range weapons.

"Those islands make a difference," he said. "Land will play a role — as all domains will in a joint manner."

McConville emphasized that the U.S. is not at the point of placing "long-range precision fires" in partner nations in the Pacific.

"I think they are 'open to the discussion' is probably the way to put it," he said. "They're certainly open to us being there working with them, absolutely."

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NATION

GOP senator critical of Trump's attacks on McCain

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — It's all too much for Sen. Johnny Isakson to take. The Georgia Republican could not stand the "unthinkable" last year when the White House flag lowered — and then soon raised — its flag from half-staff to recognize the death of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

That was one moment among others that Isakson has said is a pattern of President Donald Trump's attacks on McCain that "drive me crazy." And after an escalation of bitter words from the president this week, Isakson was ready to deliver what he calls a whipping on Wednesday.

"I just want to lay it on the line, that the country deserves better, the McCain fam-



Isakson

ily deserves better. I don't care if he's president of United States, owns all the real estate in New York, or is building the greatest immigration system in the world," Isakson told the Bulwark, a conservative news website.

"Nothing is more important than the integrity of the country and those who fought and risked their lives for all of us."

Trump unloaded on the legacy of McCain, who died of brain cancer last year, in several tweets this week. On Tuesday, he

decried McCain's vote against repealing Obamacare.

"I think that's a disgrace, plus there are other things," Trump said in the Oval Office. "It was never a fan of John McCain, and I never will be."

Meghan McCain, a co-host of ABC's "The View," blasted Trump and defended her father on Wednesday.

Her father "would think it was hilarious that our president was so jealous of him that he was dominating the news cycle in death," she said.

Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, joined his Republican colleague in a rebuke Wednesday.

"I can't understand why the President would, once again, disparage a man as ex-

emplary as my friend John McCain: heroic, courageous, patriotic, honorable, self-effacing, self-sacrificing, empathetic, and driven by duty to family, country, and God," Romney wrote on Twitter.

Isakson, chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, is a general supporter of Trump but often extends more criticisms of the president than many Republican lawmakers.

Isakson watched Trump's Tuesday remarks and their impact.

"These kids are out there listening to the president of the United States talk that way about the most decorated senator in history who is dead, it just sets the worst tone possible," he told the Bulwark.

FBI urged to investigate bots targeting vets with fake news

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Four congressmen urged the FBI on Tuesday to investigate "foreign entities" believed to be targeting servicemembers and veterans online with false information.

Reps. Gil Cisneros, D-Calif., Don Bacon, R-Neb., Ted Lieu, D-Calif., and Greg Steube, R-Fla., wrote to FBI Director Christopher Wray, asking for an investigation into "suspicious" social media accounts that could be impersonating veterans service organizations.

"Online influence and psychological operations against trusted civilian community leaders like our nation's veterans are novel threats that demand law enforcement attention," they wrote.

The request for an FBI investigation follows an announcement earlier this month from the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,

which launched its own review into foreign actors using "shadowny practices" to disseminate false information to veterans, servicemembers and their families.

Cisneros, a Navy veteran, is a member of the veterans affairs committee and the House Armed Services Committee. He asked for an FBI investigation "in order to identify and dismantle these cyber threats before they cause harm," he said.

Vietnam Veterans of America,

a congressionally chartered veterans service organization, has been looking into the issue since 2017, when it discovered a Facebook page using its name and logo. The page posted politically divisive posts and was followed by nearly 200,000 people — tens of thousands more than the official VVA page.

Facebook Inc. disabled the page after determining it violated VVA's intellectual property.

Kristofer Goldsmith, associate

director for policy and government affairs at VVA, has worked to shut down more fake accounts that target veterans and service members with "divisive propaganda," he said.

Though the issue has the attention of the veterans affairs committee, Goldsmith argued earlier this month that the FBI needs to become involved to track and identify the people behind the accounts.

"The problem is persistent,

widespread, and presents a threat to the force and the veterans community," Goldsmith said Tuesday in a statement. "We're glad that Congressman Cisneros and the members are taking this issue seriously, and we hope that Director Wray will too. Depending on social media companies to stop bad actors is not enough — we need to hold the people behind these fraudulent online avatars accountable."

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NATION



CHARLIE REED/AP

Alicia Barnett sits with her chocolate Labrador retriever named "Mueller" in their Kansas City, Kan., home. Barnett named the puppy in honor of special prosecutor Robert Mueller, shown on the television in the background, because the dog seemed strong, quiet, proud and a bit mysterious.

Mueller becomes an unlikely folk icon

By CLAIRE GALOFARO
Associated Press

Her family wanted a puppy, so Alicia Barnett dreamed they would find one that was smart, steady and a bit mysterious. She hoped their new addition could share a personality — and a name — with the man who has become her rather unlikely idol.

At Christmas, her teenage son brought home a 10-week-old chocolate Lab. "The strong, silent type," Barnett observed. And then she named him Mueller, an homage to the stoic special prosecutor appointed to investigate Russian interference in the 2016 election and whether members of the Trump campaign played any part.

For devoted Democrats such as Barnett, Robert Mueller has become a sort of folk hero since his appointment in May 2017. To them, he represents quiet in a city of bombast, a symbol of hope that a presidency they view as dishonorable might soon face some type of consequences.

"He gives me reassurance that all is not lost," says Barnett, who lives with her family and Mueller the puppy in Kansas City, Kan. "I admire his mystique. I admire that I haven't heard his voice. He is someone who can sift through all this mess and come up with a rationale that makes sense to everyone."

The special counsel — a 74-year-old registered Republican, Marine and former director the FBI — has even inspired his own genre of arts and crafts. One can buy Mueller paintings, prayer candles, valentines and ornaments. A necklace, earrings, keychains. A stuffed toy of Mueller in a Superman outfit, cross-stitch patterns, baby onesies — even an illustration of his haircut to hang on the wall.

"Stare at Special Counsel Mueller's crisp coiffure for three minutes and you will notice a sense of calm come over you," Oakland, Calif.-based artist Wayne Shella-



COURTESY OF CARMEN MARTINEZ/AP

Earrings bearing the face of special counsel Robert Mueller are for sale at "all of the things" in New York. Owners Carmen Martinez and Karen Walcott have sold 500 Christmas ornaments and earrings with Mueller's face.

barger wrote in his online listing for a \$10 print. "That's a haircut you can set your watch to."

Mueller has become a boogeyman for many of President Donald Trump's most ardent supporters, as the leader of the investigation the president derides as a "witch hunt."

But his fans often speak of him in soaring analogies.

Barnett imagines him as a duck's legs: kicking heroically to keep things afloat but under the water, out of view.

Karen Adler, a Placerville, Calif., crafter who sells a coffee mug with Mueller dressed as a saint and wearing a crown of laurels "for victory," describes him as "Paul Bunyan-esque," a man of superhuman labor.

Shellabarger thinks of him "almost like Bigfoot," a mystical creature rarely seen in public.

Mueller has remained completely silent as the ceaseless speculation about his investigation turned him into one of the most famous men in America. He hasn't given a single interview, and his office does not leak.

Trump and allies now see political upside in probe

By JONATHAN LEMIRE
AND MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's a witch hunt, a vendetta, the worst presidential harassment in history.

That's what President Donald Trump has shouted for two years about the special counsel's Russia probe. Now, barring an eleventh-hour surprise, Trump and his allies are starting to see it as something potentially very different: a political opportunity.

With Robert Mueller's findings expected any day, the president has grown increasingly confident the report will produce what he insisted all along: no clear evidence of a conspiracy between Russia and his 2016 campaign. And Trump and his advisers are considering how to weaponize those possible findings for the 2020 race, according to current and former White House officials and presidential confidants who spoke on condition of anonymity.

A change is underway as well among congressional Democrats, who have long believed the report would offer damning evidence against the president. The Democrats are busy building new avenues for evidence to come out, opening a broad array of investigations of Trump's White House and businesses that go far beyond Mueller's focus on Russian interference to help Trump beat Democrat Hillary Clinton.

No one knows exactly what Mueller will say, but Trump, his allies and members of Congress are trying to map out the post-probe political dynamics.

One scenario would have seemed downright implausible until recently: The president will take the findings and run on them, rather than against them, by painting the special counsel as an example of failed government overreach and Trump himself as

'What happens when it comes back and says none of this was true, the president did not do anything wrong? Then the meltdown will occur.'

Georgia Rep. Doug Collins
Top Republican on House Judiciary Committee

the victim who managed to prove his innocence.

The top Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, Georgia Rep. Doug Collins, said on the House floor last week that he had a "news flash" for Democrats who had high hopes that the report would be damaging to Trump.

"What happens when it comes back and says none of this was true, the president did not do anything wrong?" Collins asked. "Then the meltdown will occur."

Trump's tweeted version was even more graphic: The Democrats' House investigative committees were going "stone cold CRAZY."

That was in reaction to Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler's document requests to 81 people, businesses and organizations related to Trump.

Adam Schiff, chairman of the intelligence committee, also said there's much more to look into. Mueller, he said, "can't be doing much of a money laundering investigation" if he hasn't subpoenaed Deutsche Bank, which has loaned millions of dollars to Trump.

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NATION

Warren decries Electoral College in Southern swing

By ELANA SCHOR
Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Sen. Elizabeth Warren wrapped up a three-state Southern swing on Tuesday with appearances in Alabama, where the Democratic presidential candidate ramped up her call to eliminate the Electoral College.

Warren told an enthusiastic audience of 500 in the state's largest city, Birmingham, that a popular vote would help refocus candidates' energy on the concerns of the entire nation, not simply "states that are in play" as they seek the White House.

"We get to a general election for the highest office in this land, and no presidential candidate comes to Alabama. Or to Mississippi," the Massachusetts senator said, describing the Electoral College as a system that means, in the final analysis, "your vote just doesn't count ... and that is wrong."

President Donald Trump's Electoral College victory, which came as Democrat Hillary Clinton won about 3 million more votes, has engendered long-simmering Democratic frustration with the system the nation uses to elect its presidents. Trump himself weighed in Tuesday night, tweeting that without the Electoral College, "the Cities would end up running the Country. Smaller States & the entire Midwest would end up losing all power - & we can't let that happen."

Warren, when pressed Tues-



JAKE CRANDALL, THE MONTGOMERY (ALA.) ADVERTISER/VIA AP

Rep. Terri Sewell and presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., walk through a neighborhood in Selma, Ala., on Tuesday.

day on how she would accomplish a shift to a national popular vote, said it could happen through a "constitutional amendment, someday." But instead she urged the crowd — to laughter from some voters who doubted the viability of the idea — to push for the passage of a state law that would award Electoral College votes for president to the winner of the most votes nationwide. Colorado recently became the 12th state to join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, an alliance organized to advance toward that goal. Alabama is among the reddest states in the nation.

Warren also tackled health care, describing a "Medicare

for All" single-payer system as "where we're aiming" but also drawing attention to the urgency of protecting former President Barack Obama's health care law in the nearer term. She is backing a single-payer bill written by her Democratic presidential rival Sen. Bernie Sanders, of Vermont.

Warren began the day with a walking tour of Selma, where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. led a 1965 march to draw attention to the disenfranchisement of African-Americans. Accompanied by Alabama Rep. Terri Sewell, who grew up in and represents Selma, Warren visited businesses and toured a church that served as a meeting point for marchers.

O'Rourke: End 'racist voter ID laws'

Associated Press

KEENE, N.H. — Democrat Beto O'Rourke is calling for an end to what he sees as "racist voter ID laws" during his first presidential campaign stop in New Hampshire.

Speaking at Keene State College on Tuesday, the former Texas congressman also called for expanding same-day voter registration, as well as federal oversight of the voting system.

He says, "We have kept too many people out for too long."

Republicans have pursued voter ID laws aimed at preventing in-person voter fraud, including by people in the country illegally. Many experts say such voter fraud is extremely rare, and critics contend the efforts are meant to suppress turnout from groups who tend to back Democrats, including racial minorities and college students.

O'Rourke plans to campaign in all 10 New Hampshire's counties over two days.



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Former Texas congressman Beto O'Rourke, a 2020 Democratic presidential candidate, stands on a bench as he addresses a gathering during a campaign stop at Keene State College in Keene, N.H., on Tuesday.

Trump escalates feud with George Conway

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Wednesday escalated his feud with the husband of White House counselor Kellyanne Conway, calling him "a stone cold LOSER & husband from hell!"

Trump's broadside on Twitter comes as George Conway, a conservative lawyer, has publicly questioned the president's mental health in recent days.

"George Conway, often referred to as Mr. Kellyanne Conway by those who know him, is VERY jealous of his wife's success & angry that I, with her help, didn't give him the job he so desperately wanted," Trump wrote. "I barely know him but just take a look, a stone cold LOSER & husband from hell!"

George Conway said Tuesday that he has had a number of notable interactions with Trump over the past decade, often concerning legal representation and sensitive legal matters since Trump became president. Trump's tweet referred to a Justice Department job for which George Conway was under consideration in 2017.

From The Washington Post



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NATION

Trump buddies up with Bolsonaro at White House

Brazilian president has been called the 'Trump of the Tropics'

By JILL COLVIN
AND PETER PRENGAMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump welcomed Brazil's new far-right leader to the White House on Tuesday and made clear that flattery pays.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro — the “Trump of the Tropics” — ran an unabashedly pro-Trump, pro-American campaign last year, emulating Trump in tone and style. It seems to have paid off for Bolsonaro on his first official trip to Washington.

At a joint news conference, Trump announced that he had agreed to designate Brazil a “major non-NATO ally” — something Brazil had pursued to smooth U.S. weapons purchases and military coordination. Trump even said he'd be open to granting full NATO membership to Latin America's largest and most populous nation, even though Brazil doesn't qualify to join the North

Atlantic alliance.

The showing was the latest example of the premium Trump puts on personal relationships and the extent to which he's willing to work with those who sing his virtues. And it renewed focus on the growing wave of populist strongmen who have captured voters' support with blunt admissions of “political correctness” and hardline immigration views.

As they sat down for the first time, Trump hailed Bolsonaro's run as “one of the incredible campaigns,” saying he was “honored” it had drawn comparisons to his own 2016 victory. And he predicted the two would have a “fantastic working relationship,” telling reporters at a joint press conference that they have “many views” in common.

Standing side-by-side in the White House Rose Garden, Bolsonaro said their two countries “stand side by side in their efforts to ensure liberties and respect to traditional family lifestyles, re-

spect to God, our Creator, against the gender ideology or the politically correct attitudes and against fake news.”

“I'm very proud to hear the president use the term ‘fake news,’” Trump later remarked.

The embrace represents a shift in U.S.-Brazilian relations. In 2013, leaks from Edward Snowden revealed that the National Security Agency had wiretapped conversations of former President Dilma Rousseff, leading to several years of tense relations between the nations.

Bolsonaro had arrived in the U.S. with a half a dozen ministers and a goal of expanding trade, diplomatic and military cooperation between the two largest economies in the Western Hemisphere. And Trump appeared eager to deliver.

He announced he would back Brazil's effort to join the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, while floating the idea of full NATO member-



MANUEL BALCE CONETA/AP

President Donald Trump and visiting Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro shake hands as they conclude a news conference Tuesday in Washington.

ship, though he said he'd “have to talk to a lot of people” for Brazil to join the organization.

However, James Stavridis, a retired Navy admiral who was the Supreme Allied Commander at NATO from 2009 to 2013, said Brazil does not qualify for full membership under the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949.

“The idea of formal membership is a nonstarter in every dimension — the treaty doesn't

allow it, the Brazilians wouldn't want it and the Europeans wouldn't approve,” Stavridis said in an email exchange.

The efforts came as both countries continue to denounce the crisis in Venezuela and called on members of the Venezuelan military to end their support for President Nicolas Maduro. Both the U.S. and Brazil have recognized opposition leader Juan Guaido as Venezuela's legitimate leader.

Inaction endangers black lung fund

Associated Press

COEBURN, Va. — Former coal miner John Robinson's bills for black lung treatments run \$4,000 a month, but the federal fund he depends on to help cover them is being drained of money because of inaction by Congress and the Trump administration.

Amid the turmoil of the government shutdown this winter, a tax on coal that helps pay for the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund was cut sharply Jan. 1 and never restored, potentially saving coal operators hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

With cash trickling into the fund at less than half its usual rate, budget officials estimate that by the middle of 2020 there won't be enough money to fully cover the fund's benefit payments.

As a surge of black lung disease

scars miners' lungs at younger ages than ever, Robinson worries not only about cuts to his benefits, but that younger miners won't get any coverage.

President Donald Trump, who vowed to save the coal industry during the 2016 campaign, has repeatedly praised miners.

Trump made no mention of restoring the 2018 tax rate in his proposed budget released in mid-March.

The White House said in a statement Tuesday that “President Trump and this administration have always supported the mining industry by prioritizing deregulation and less Washington interference.”

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, whose home state of Kentucky is third in the nation in coal production, told a reporter

from Ohio Valley ReSource in October the tax rate would “be taken care of before we get into an expiration situation.”

That didn't happen. McConnell spokesman Robert Steurer didn't repeat that pledge this week; rather, he wrote in an email, “benefits provided through the Black Lung Disability Fund continue to be provided at regular levels” and that McConnell “continues to prioritize maintaining and protecting the benefits.”

Congress established the trust fund in 1978. Until the rate expired, money came from an excise tax of \$1.10 per ton on underground coal and 55 cents on surface-mined coal that brought in \$450 million last year. Rates fell to about 50 cents and 25 cents when lawmakers failed to act on its Dec. 31 expiration date.

Pompeo again urges resolution to Gulf crisis

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday renewed calls for a resolution to a festering dispute between Qatar and four other Arab nations, all of them America's partners in the Middle East.

On a visit to Kuwait, which has been attempting to mediate an end to the crisis, Pompeo said the dispute that has rolled the Gulf Cooperation Council for almost two years is hindering efforts to combat regional threats posed by Iran, the Islamic State and other terrorist groups.

“It's not in the best interest of the region, it's not in

the best interest of the world,” Pompeo told reporters at a news conference with Kuwait's foreign minister. “We need the Gulf countries working together on the complex set of challenges that face each of them.”

Pompeo lauded mediation efforts in the dispute by Kuwait's emir and said the United States would do whatever it could to assist.

Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates began a boycott of Qatar in June 2017, alleging that Qatar funds extremist groups and has too-cozy ties to Iran.

Pompeo was in Kuwait on the first leg of a Mideast tour that will take him next to Israel and Lebanon.

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NATION



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

A sales associate displays a bud of Lemon Skunk, the highest potency strain of marijuana available at the dispensary in Denver in 2014. According to research released on Tuesday, scientists say smoking high-potency marijuana every day could increase the chances of developing psychosis by about five times.

Study sees pot link with psychosis

Scientists say daily high-potency pot use raises disorder risk by 5 times

By MARIA CHENG

Associated Press

LONDON — Smoking high-potency marijuana every day could increase the chances of developing psychosis by nearly five times, according to the biggest study to examine the impact of pot on psychotic disorder rates.

The research adds to previous studies that have found links between marijuana and mental health problems, but still does not definitively pinpoint marijuana as the cause.

Psychotic disorders — in which people lose touch with reality — are typically triggered by factors including genetics and the environment. But experts say the new study's findings have implications for jurisdictions legalizing marijuana, warning they should consider the potential impact on their mental health services.

"If we think there's something particular about (high-potency) cannabis, then making that harder to get a hold of, could be a use-

ful harm-reduction measure," said Suzanne Gage, of the University of Liverpool, who was not connected to the new study.

Researchers at King's College London and elsewhere analyzed data from a dozen sites across Europe and Brazil from 2010 to 2015. About 900 people who were diagnosed with a first episode of the disorder at a mental health clinic, including those with delusions and hallucinations, were compared with more than 1,200 healthy patients. After surveying the patients about their use of cannabis and other drugs, researchers found daily marijuana use was more common among patients with a first episode of psychosis compared with the healthy, control group.

The scientists estimated that people who smoked marijuana on a daily basis were three times more likely to be diagnosed with psychosis compared with people who never used the drug. For those who used high-potency marijuana daily, the risk jumped to nearly five times. The paper was published online Tues-

day by the journal *Lancet*. It was paid for by funders including Britain's Medical Research Council, the Sao Paulo Research Foundation and the Wellcome Trust.

"If you decide to use high-potency marijuana, you should bear in mind: Psychosis is a potential risk," said Dr. Marta Di Forti, of King's College London and the study's lead author. She said it was unknown how frequently people could smoke lower-potency marijuana without raising their likelihood of psychosis, but that less than weekly use appeared to pose no risk.

Di Forti and colleagues estimated that in Amsterdam, about half of new psychosis cases were associated with smoking high-potency pot.

Gage noted that it was possible that people with a family history of psychosis or other risk factors might be more susceptible to developing problems like psychosis or schizophrenia if they used cannabis.

By the numbers

61% **57%**

Support for legal marijuana hit 61 percent in 2018, up from 57 percent two years ago, according to the General Social Survey.

SOURCE: General Social Survey

Poll: Support rises in all age groups for legal pot

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A growing majority of Americans say marijuana should be legal, underscoring a national shift as more states embrace cannabis for medical or recreational use.

Support for legal marijuana hit 61 percent in 2018, up from 57 percent two years ago, according to the General Social Survey, a widely respected trend survey that has been measuring support for legal marijuana since the 1970s.

An analysis of the survey by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and the General Social Survey staff finds that increased backing of legalization cut across all age groups and political parties. The 2018 poll is the first in which a majority of Republicans support legalizing marijuana — 54 percent, up from 45 percent in 2016.

Among Democrats, 76 percent now favor legalization.

The rising support mirrors the evolving legal landscape across the country. Most Americans now live in places where marijuana is legal in some form, with 10 states allowing recreational use and more than 30 allowing medicinal use.

The GSS asks about making use of marijuana legal, but does not specify whether it should be legal for recreational or medical use.

Legalization advocates say the increasing public support should prompt the U.S. government to reverse course. At the federal level, marijuana is categorized as a dangerous illegal drug, similar to LSD or heroin.

"Our time has come," said Justin Strekal, political director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, or NORML. "Never in modern history has there existed greater public support for ending the nation's nearly century-long experiment with marijuana prohibition."

Support for legalization is strongest among 18-to-34-year-olds, with nearly 75 percent favoring it.

But older Americans are taking a more favorable view, too. Forty-six percent of those 65 and older say marijuana should be legal, up from 42 percent in 2016.

S. Francisco floats ban on e-cigarettes

By JANIE HAR

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco is trying to crack down on electronic cigarettes that critics say aggressively target kids, with an official on Tuesday proposed what's believed to be the first U.S. ban on their sale until the federal government regulates vaping products.

City Attorney Dennis Herrera said San Francisco, Chicago and New York sent a joint letter demanding that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration evaluate the effect of e-cigarettes on public health.

Herrera said the review should have been done before e-cigarettes entered the market. The FDA released proposed guidelines last week giving companies until 2021 to submit applications for the evaluation.

"The result is that millions of children are already addicted to e-cigarettes and millions more will follow if we don't act," he said Tuesday.

Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine, which is addictive and can harm adolescent brains that are still developing. In the U.S., youth are more likely than adults to use e-cigarettes.

San Francisco Supervisor Shamann Walton introduced legislation banning the sale of e-cigarettes in the city unless they get an FDA review.

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NATION

Floods could cost Midwest farms millions

By DAVID PITT
AND MARGERY BECK
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Farmer Jeff Jorgenson looks out over 750 acres of cropland submerged beneath the swollen Missouri River, and he knows he probably won't plant this year.

But that's not his biggest worry. He and other farmers have worked until midnight for days to move grain, equipment and fuel barrels away from the floodwaters fed by heavy rain and snowmelt. The rising water that has damaged hundreds of homes and been blamed for three deaths has also taken a heavy toll on agriculture, inundating thousands of acres, threatening stockpiled grain and killing livestock.

In Fremont County alone, Jorgenson estimates that more than a million bushels of corn and nearly half a million bushels of soybeans have been lost after water overwhelmed grain bins before they could be emptied of last year's crop. His calculation using local grain prices puts the financial loss at more than \$7 million in grain alone. That's for about 28 farmers in his immediate area, he said.

Once it's deposited in bins, grain is not insured, so it's just lost money. This year farmers have stored much more grain than normal because of a large crop last year and fewer markets in which to sell soybeans because of a trade dispute with China.

"The economy in agriculture is not very good right now. It will end some of these folks farming, family legacies, family farms," he said. "There will be farmers that will be dealing with so much of a negative they won't be able to tolerate it."

Jorgenson, 43, who has farmed since 1998, reached out to friends Saturday, and they helped him move his grain out of bins to an elevator. Had they not acted, he

'We're going to make sure that federal resources are there for you.'

Vice President Mike Pence
While visiting Waterloo, Iowa

would have lost \$135,000.

Vice President Mike Pence surveyed flooded areas in Nebraska Tuesday, where he viewed the raging Elkhorn river, talked to first responders and visited a shelter for displaced people. He promised expedited action on presidential disaster declarations for Iowa and Nebraska.

"We're going to make sure that federal resources are there for you," Pence told volunteers at Waterloo, a town of less than 1,000 residents about 21 miles west of Omaha that was virtually cut off by the floodwaters.

The flooding is expected to continue throughout the week in several states as high water flows down the Missouri River. Swollen rivers have already breached more than a dozen levees in Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri, according to the Army Corps of Engineers.

The flooding, which started after a massive late-winter storm last week, has also put some hog farms in southwest Iowa underwater. The dead animals inside must be disposed of, Reynolds said.

The water rose so quickly that farmers in many areas had no time to get animals out, said Chad Hart, an agricultural economist at Iowa State University.

"Places that haven't seen animal loss have seen a lot of animal stress. That means they're not gaining weight and won't be marketed in as timely a manner, which results in additional cost," he said.

In all, Nebraska Farm Bureau



DRONEBASE/AP

Floodwaters from the Missouri River cover property in Pacific Junction, Iowa, on Tuesday. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says rivers breached at least a dozen levees in Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri.

President Steve Nelson estimated \$400 million of crop losses from fields left unplanted or planted late and up to \$500 million in livestock losses.

In a news release issued Tuesday, Gov. Pete Ricketts said there have been deadlier disasters in Nebraska but never one as widespread. He said 65 of the state's 93 counties are under emergency declarations.

In neighboring Missouri, water was just shy of getting into Ryo-nee McCann's home along a recreational lake in Holt County, where about 40,000 acres and hundreds of homes have been flooded. She said her home sits on an 8-foot foundation.

"We have no control over it," the 38-year-old said. "We just have to wait for the water to recede. It's upsetting because everything you have worked for is there."



SCOTT P. YATES, ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR/AP

Jake Sallinger of Roscoe, Ill., checks a sap bucket as he paddles his canoe from tree to tree to collect maple sap on Tuesday. Authorities say Rock River flooding has surrounded one neighborhood in Roscoe, leaving residents to escape in boats.

Sorrow revisited: Artists re-create Katrina's muck

By KEVIN MCGILL
AND STACEY PLAISANCE
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Patches of black mold on the ceiling. Water marks on the dingy walls. Toys, furniture and a baby grand piano tossed about and covered in a gray muck.

The busted floodwall behind the long-abandoned house in New Orleans' Gentilly neighborhood was mended over a decade ago but the house looks, again as though head-high floodwaters had only just receded.

It's just an illusion, however, created by volunteers and theater artists who've turned two rooms in the house next to the London Avenue Canal into a life-sized diorama and the city's latest monument to the disaster that struck on Aug. 29, 2005, when levees and floodwalls failed against the storm surge of Hurricane Katrina and 80 percent of New Orleans flooded.

A project of the donor-funded nonprofit

group Levees.org, the Flooded House Museum is unique among the city's monuments to Katrina's destruction.

There are markers at various sites, including some of the places where floodwalls gave way. But there's nothing like this re-creation by artists Aaron Angelo and Ken Conner. They were tasked with depicting what homeowners would have found once they were allowed back into the area in the months after the storm hit, once the water had receded and roads were cleared of debris.

They used donated materials — furniture, art, household bric-a-brac — while drawing on research and memories as they painstakingly conjured a disaster scene, taking care to accurately depict how the watermarks formed on the walls as the putrid water dropped in stutter-step stages over the days and weeks following the storm.

"The water was not clean water," Conner said one recent morning as he and Angelo rushed to complete the project, which will

be formally unveiled Saturday. "It was salty water with a variety of contaminants. So each layer took on different looks."

He was working around a piano that sat askimbo in the middle of the floor. Angelo had earlier re-created nature's force by taking a sledgehammer to one of its legs.

This was a sort of Act II for the project. The rooms were first unveiled in August as a portrayal of the way they might have looked on Aug. 28, 2005 — art hanging neatly on freshly painted walls, toys on the throw rugs and a newspaper on the coffee table with an ominous headline: "KATRINA TAKES AIM."

"Anytime you see devastation on a mass scale in world history, we always try to preserve one of the bad elements of it to illustrate to future generations what happened," said Angelo, who not only donated effort but also some toys his 6-year-old daughter had outgrown. "And, so, this place, the more I've spent time with it, the more I realize how dynamic of a story it is."



KEV MCGILL/AP

Ken Conner transformed a New Orleans house before it was as it might have looked when homeowners returned after flood waters preceded following Hurricane Katrina.

NATION



REED SAXON/AP

People take photos in front of the iconic Tommy Trojan statue on the campus of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles on March 12. USC says a review of students possibly connected to a college admissions bribery scandal could lead to expulsions.

Colleges mull fate of students connected to admissions scandal

By COLLIN BINKLEY

Associated Press

BOSTON — In the wake of a massive college bribery scheme, the schools caught in the middle have been left facing a thorny question: What to do about the students who may have been admitted through fraud?

The University of Southern California announced late Monday it had placed holds on an undisclosed number of students, meaning they can't register for classes or obtain transcripts until their cases are reviewed. After a review, USC officials said they would take appropriate action, "up to revoking admission or expulsion."

At Yale, the president declined to comment on specific cases but said a "longstanding policy is to rescind the admission of students who falsified their Yale College applications." Stanford similarly noted that students could be "disenrolled" or have offers of admission rescinded.

More than 30 parents have been charged in the scheme in which prosecutors say a disgraced college admissions consultant, William "Rick" Singer, took millions of dollars in bribes to assure their children's entry into top colleges by getting them recruited for sports they didn't play and by arranging for standardized tests to be rigged.

Federal prosecutors say some students never knew about the bribes and fraudulent entrance exams that got them into some of the nation's top universities, but investigators say some students did and were even involved in submitting false information about athletic feats in their applications.

Several schools said they are still considering what to do about students whose admission may now be tainted.

At Georgetown University, the indictment cast a shadow over the

applications of about a dozen students. The school said it was examining its records and "will be taking appropriate action."

Wake Forest University said a student mentioned in the indictment remains enrolled, and school officials have no reason to believe the student was aware of the alleged crimes. The university said Tuesday it was redirecting \$50,000 from a California foundation connected to the scheme to help first-generation college students.

Only USC has said definitively that it revoked offers of admission from applicants tied to the scheme. More than half the parents charged were trying to bribe their children's way into the school in downtown Los Angeles.

The scheme was remarkable in part because of its scale and the cast of rich and famous defendants, including actress Lori Loughlin and her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannini, who allegedly paid \$500,000 to have their two daughters labeled as crew team recruits.

The same day that prosecutors in Boston revealed details about the bribery ring, their counterparts in Los Angeles announced arrests in a scheme to help Chinese nationals obtain student visas. Prosecutors say five people used fake passports to impersonate the Chinese nationals and take an English fluency test on their behalf.

Mark Sklarow, CEO of the Independent Educational Consultants Association, said schools are increasingly on the lookout for applicants coming from China with faked transcripts, recommendations and other application records.

"It's an issue that I think every college in America has been dealing with over the last few years," Sklarow said.

Facebook alters ad system to prevent discrimination

By BARBARA ORTUTAY

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Facebook will overhaul its ad-targeting systems to prevent discrimination in housing, credit and employment ads as part of a legal settlement.

For the social network, that's one major legal problem down, several to go, including government investigations in the U.S. and Europe over its data and privacy practices.

The changes to Facebook's advertising methods — which generate most of the company's enormous profits — are unprecedented. The social network says it will no longer allow housing, employment or credit ads that target people by age, gender or zip code. Facebook will also limit other targeting options so these ads don't exclude people on the basis of race, ethnicity and other legally protected categories in the U.S., including national origin and sexual orientation.

The social media company is also paying about \$5 million to cover plaintiffs' legal fees and other costs.

Facebook and the plaintiffs — a group including the American Civil Liberties Union, the National

Fair Housing Alliance and others — called the settlement "historic." It took 18 months to hammer out. The company still faces an administrative complaint filed by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in August over the housing ads issue.

What's not yet clear is how well the safeguards will work. Facebook has been working to address a slew of social consequences related to its platform, with varying degrees of success.

Earlier in March, CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced a new "privacy-focused vision" for the company to focus on messaging instead of more public sharing, but he stayed mum on overhauling Facebook's privacy practices in its core business.

Galen Sherwin, senior staff attorney at the ACLU and the group's lead attorney on its suit, praised the settlement as "sweeping" and said she expects it to have ripple effects through the tech industry.

Facebook agreed to let the groups test its ad systems to ensure they don't enable discrimination. The company also agreed to meet with the groups every six months for the next three years, and is building a tool to let anyone

search housing-related ads in the U.S. targeted to different areas across the country.

Discrimination hasn't been Facebook's only problem with ad targeting. It's taken fire for allowing advertisers to target groups of people identified as "Jew-haters" and Nazi sympathizers. It's also still dealing with fallout from the 2016 election, when, among other things, Facebook allowed fake Russian accounts to buy ads targeting U.S. users to stir up political divisions.

One of the complaints said that Facebook violated the Fair Housing Act because its targeting systems allow advertisers to exclude certain audiences, such as families with young children or disabled people, from seeing housing ads. Others alleged job discrimination, with ads being shown to men but not women in traditionally male-dominated fields, or only to younger users.

"There is a lot of pressure on Facebook and its ability to target ads," said eMarketer analyst Debra Aho Williamson. "And a lot of scrutiny on what it should and shouldn't be able to do. This is just one more example of that."

Calif. Guard to leave border to help communities prepare for wildfires

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California is calling in the National Guard for the first time next month to help protect communities from devastating fires like the one that largely destroyed the city of Paradise last fall.

It's pulling the troops away from President Donald Trump's border protection efforts and devoting them to fire protection, another area where Trump has been critical of California's Democratic officials — even repeatedly threatening to cut off federal disaster funding.

Starting in April, 110 California National Guard troops will receive 11 days of training in using shovels, rakes and chain saws to help thin trees and brush, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokesman Mike Mohler said.

They will be divided into five teams that will travel around the state working on forest management projects, mainly clearing or reducing trees and vegetation in an effort to deprive flames of fuel.

"They will be boots on the ground doing fuels projects alongside CalFire crews," Mohler said.

He said the troops also will receive some training in forest management, "so they're not just out there cutting brush" but understand why they're doing what they're doing.

For instance, firefighting crews generally cut fire lines down to mineral earth during active wildfires, while fuels management crews often do less-intensive thinning of trees and chaparral to slow advancing flames.

That often involves creating fuel breaks. They can range from stripping away all woody vegetation on wide strips of land to thinning larger trees and removing shorter trees, brush and debris to discourage fires from climbing into treetops and jumping



REED SAXON/AP

Firefighters clear burned and unburned brush from a hillside in Los Angeles in June. California is calling in the National Guard from the border to help protect communities from wildfires.

from tree to tree.

Critics say the work damages forests and can be useless against wind-driven fires, like the one that jumped a river to rain embankers on the Sierra Nevada foothills community of Paradise last year, killing 85 people in and around the Northern California city of 27,000 people.

CalFire this month listed 35 fuel-reduction projects it wants to start immediately, covering more than 140 square miles. But state officials estimate 23,438 square miles of California forestland need thinning or other restoration.

"It's not a problem that's going to get fixed overnight," Mohler said.

WORLD

May asks EU to delay Brexit until June 30

By JILL LAWLESS
AND DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON — Prime Minister Theresa May formally asked the European Union on Wednesday to postpone Britain's departure from the bloc — due in eight days — until June 30. But a frustrated EU has warned it could keep Britain waiting for an answer.

In a letter to European Council President Donald Tusk, May said the Brexit process "clearly will not be completed before 29 March, 2019" — the date fixed in law two years ago for Britain's departure.

She asked for a delay until June 30, and said she wanted to set out

her reasons to EU leaders at a summit in Brussels on Thursday. Opposition politicians, and pro-EU members of May's Conservative government, had urged a longer extension, saying a delay of just a few months could leave Britain once again facing a cliff-edge "no-deal" Brexit this summer. Withdrawing without a deal could mean huge disruption for businesses and people in the U.K. and the 27 remaining EU countries.

But a long extension would infuriate the pro-Brexit wing of May's divided party, and would require Britain to participate in May 23-26 elections for the European Parliament.

May said that would be

unacceptable.

"As prime minister I am not prepared to delay Brexit any further than June 30," she said in the House of Commons.

May said a longer delay would result in Parliament spending "endless hours contemplating its navel on Brexit."

Britain voted in June 2016 to quit the EU, but almost three years later, its politicians are deadlocked over how — and even whether — to leave.

"Today marks 1,000 days since the referendum and this government has led the country and ourselves into crisis, chaos and division," said opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn.

British lawmakers have twice

rejected the Brexit deal May has struck with the bloc. Her troubles deepened when the speaker of the House of Commons ruled earlier this week that she can't ask Parliament to vote on the deal again unless it is substantially changed. That scuttled May's plan to try a third time this week to get the agreement approved.

May told Tusk that despite the ruling "it remains my intention to bring the deal back to the House."

If it is approved, she plans to use the extension until June 30 in order for Parliament to pass the necessary legislation for Britain's departure.

A delay to Britain's withdrawal

requires the approval of all 27 remaining EU countries — and that's not guaranteed.

Any delay that required Britain to take part in European parliamentary elections would be a major headache for the bloc, and some EU leaders want a short extension to end by May 23, when voting begins.

The head of the bloc's executive branch said EU leaders are unlikely to agree to a delay at a summit this week.

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said if May wanted a delay, "she must bring approval of the negotiated deal and she must bring clear ideas on timing."



TSVANGIRAYI MUKWAZI/AP

A family digs for their son who got buried in the mud when Cyclone Idai struck in Chimanimani, Zimbabwe, on Tuesday. Officials say Idai has killed more than 100 people in Chipinge and Chimanimani. Residents say the figures could be higher because the hardest hit areas are still inaccessible.

Cyclone's toll rises in Africa

By FARAI MUTSAKA
Associated Press

CHIPINGE, Zimbabwe — Mozambique on Wednesday began three days of national mourning for more than 200 victims of Cyclone Idai, while the death toll rose over 100 in neighboring Zimbabwe from one of the most destructive storms to strike southern Africa in decades.

Torrential rains are expected to continue into Thursday and floodwaters are still rising, according to aid groups trying to get food, shelter and clothing to desperate survivors. It will be days before Mozambique's inundated plains drain toward the Indian Ocean.

People have been clinging to rooftops and trees since the cyclone roared in over the weekend. The United Nations humanitarian office said the town of Buzi, with about 200,000 people, was at

risk of becoming at least partially submerged.

"Floodwaters are predicted to rise significantly in the coming days and 350,000 people are at risk," the U.N. office said.

Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa received a somber welcome in the hard-hit mountain community of Chimanimani near the border with Mozambique. Zimbabwean officials have said about 350 people may have died. Some bodies from Zimbabwe have been swept down the mountainside into Mozambique.

"Some of the peasants in Mozambique were calling some of our people to say, 'We see bodies, we believe those bodies are coming from Zimbabwe,'" said July Moyo, the minister of local government.

Mozambique's President Filipe Nyusi said late Tuesday that more than 200 people were con-

firmed dead there. After flying over the affected region Monday, he said he expected more than 1,000 deaths.

Aid workers were shocked as they arrived in the Mozambique port city of Beira, estimated to be 90 percent destroyed. The 500,000 residents of the city, which has some neighborhoods that are below sea level, are scrambling for food, fuel and medicine.

"The power of the cyclone is visible everywhere with shipping containers moved like little Lego blocks," said Marc Noshach, Mozambique director for the aid group CARE.

International aid has started trickling in.

"Everyone is doubling, tripling, quadrupling whatever they were planning" in terms of aid, said Caroline Haga of the Red Cross in Beira. "It's much larger than anyone could ever anticipate."

Erdogan's comments on Christchurch killings, WWI battle spark spat

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, campaigning for votes in local elections this month, has sparked a diplomatic spat with New Zealand and Australia by portraying the Christchurch mosque shooting and a World War I battle as targeting Islam.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison summoned Turkey's ambassador on Wednesday and demanded that Erdogan take back comments suggesting that Australians and New Zealanders had sent troops to fight Turkey in the WWI Gallipoli campaign motivated by an opposition to Islam.

In more inflammatory comments, Erdogan said Australians and New Zealanders traveling to Turkey with anti-Muslim sentiments would be sent back in coffins, "like their grandfathers" were in the Gallipoli campaign.

Morrison's government issued a travel advisory warning people visiting the Gallipoli battlefields for remembrance ceremonies

during the anniversary of the campaign next month to exercise caution. Morrison said "all options are on the table" if Erdogan does not withdraw his comments.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu later held a telephone conversation with his Australian counterpart, Marise Payne, Turkish Foreign Ministry officials said. They did not provide details about the call.

Ignoring widespread criticism, Erdogan has been screening at campaign rallies excerpts of a video taken by the gunman who killed 50 people in mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, to denounce what he calls rising hatred and prejudice against Islam. Three Turkish citizens were wounded in the attack. On Wednesday, Erdogan — inaugurating a theme park in Ankara as part of his campaign for the March 31 elections — called for votes for his ruling party candidates as a response to "occupiers who attempt to threaten our nation from tens of thousands of kilometers away."



BURHAN OZBILICI/AP

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan speaks in front of a model dinosaur during the inauguration of a theme park in Ankara on Wednesday. He has sparked a diplomatic spat with New Zealand and Australia as he campaigns for votes in local elections this month.

EUROPE



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

The sopranos sing the final notes of the “Armed Forces Medley” during a rehearsal Tuesday at the DODEA-Europe Honors Music Festival in Oberwesel, Germany.



Trombonists Hayden Davis from Alconbury, England, Estes Cantarero-George from Ramstein, Germany, and Kabryni Breuning from Kaiserslautern, Germany, rehearse “The Jig is Up.”



Aviano's Jacob Nelson concentrates on the notes as he plays the string bass during rehearsal.



From right, altos Shelby Harrison and Violet Cromer from Stuttgart along with Vicenza's Kate Hunter and Londyn Wilson rehearse a song.



Alexa Simon, an alto-saxophonist from Hohenfels, Germany, makes a note on her music during rehearsals.

The beat goes on

At Honors Music Festival, DODEA musicians pour hearts into big sound

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

Hear from the students taking part and snippets from the band: [stripes.com/go/musicfest](https://www.stripes.com/go/musicfest)

OBERWESEL, Germany — When she moved to Lakenheath halfway through her freshman year, Dresden Goodwin didn't think she could sing and only took choir because the engineering class she wanted was full.

“I was like, ‘Well, this might be a mistake,’” she said Tuesday, with a laugh.

Goodwin, now a senior, is singing soprano this week at the annual DODEA-Europe Honors Music Festival, her third year participating in the select choral group. The experience, she says, has changed her life.

“I was totally on an engineering track and from being in choir and coming to things like this ... I'm now going to study musical theater in London next year,” she said. “This has pushed me towards my new life.”

Goodwin's passion for music is the norm among the nearly 140 students from 18 Department of Defense Education Activity schools from across Europe partaking in the festival — the military school system's equivalent of all-state choir and band.

“I keep coming back because it's really like the greatest musical experience available for kids overseas,” said senior Donovan Compton, a bassoon player from Italy's Vicenza High School, participating in his fourth and final festival.

This year, 76 vocalists and 62 band members were chosen from more than 350 blind auditions.

They're holed up this week at a hostel overlooking the Rhine River, rehearsing for a concert Thursday in Bingen. On Tuesday, the place was jamming.

The band at one point rehearsed, “The Jig is Up,” a lively American composition that sounds like a traditional dance tune until it doesn't, said Tim Robblee, the band's guest conductor.

“It's a very predictable jig until it kind of jostles and surprises you,” he said. For the kids, it's challenging because they have to figure “out how it's changing and

make it cohere in their brains.”

“‘The Jig is Up’ is just a really fun song to play in general,” said Ramstein senior Alex Sims, a percussionist who this week is playing the bongos, the maracas, cabasa, vibraphone, bass drum and timpani.

Meanwhile, there was some clapping and foot stomping going on in the choral room, as choir members sang the African folk song, “Nda Wana,” in the Bantu dialect. The song required a similar energy as “Worthy to be Praised,” a gospel tune that earned high praise from the students after a mini-rehearsal with Ramstein Middle School music instructor Giovana Kingsberry.

“I always get excited when we do gospel music,” said Stuttgart senior Tito Mercado, a tenor. “I always smile when I'm singing it.”

DODEA every year brings in two new guest conductors to lead the band and chorus with help from school music instructors. Robblee is the director of bands and associate professor of conducting at Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, Va.

This year's guest choir conductor, Justin Lewis, is an Air Force officer posted to the Pentagon. Lewis was the associate director of the Air Force band at Ramstein and directed the Rheinland-Pfalz International Choir.

DODEA needs to be flexible to give students the opportunity to learn, “especially when they're geographically separated from a lot of other students their age,” Lewis said.

That's especially true for students such as Hayden Davis, a trombonist from tiny Alconbury in the United Kingdom.

“My band has like seven people,” the senior said. “I always miss the feeling of playing with a super large band and having that big sound you just can't get with a few people.”

svan.jennifer@stripes.com

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Thousands of dead fish wash up in shore town

NJ OCEANPORT — State environmental officials say thousands of dead fish washed up in a New Jersey shore community.

The adult menhaden were found Saturday in creeks and bays in Oceanport that are part of the Shrewsbury River estuary in Monmouth County. Officials say the deaths occurred after a large school of menhaden were pursued by predatory fish and depleted the oxygen from the shallow water.

Menhaden are small schooling fish that play a vital role in the ocean food web. They are also harvested commercially for fish oil and use as aquaculture feed.

Civil war flag returned to home state

ME SOUTH PORTLAND — An American flag that a Maine regiment brought into battles in Louisiana and Texas during the Civil War has returned to its home state.

The Portland Press Herald reported the torn and tattered 156-year-old flag was delivered in a wooden frame to the Maine Military Museum in South Portland.

The flag will be on display as part of an exhibit on the 15th Maine Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

The flag had been stored for years at the home of a Colorado woman who was married to the regiment commander's great-grandson.

Need for hot sauce proves to be lucky

FL MIAMI — A customer at a Taco Bell in Winter Haven, Fla., got very lucky over the weekend.

According to a Facebook post from the Winter Haven Police Department, a man was eating his food in the fast food restaurant around 4:30 p.m. Saturday when he decided he needed more seasoning.

Within seconds of him getting up from his seat to retrieve hot sauce, a car crashed through the restaurant.

The vehicle was driven by Emanuel Akowuah of New York, who had parked right in front of the fast food spot. The 77-year-old told cops that he thought he was placing the car in reverse but accidentally put it into drive.

Police seek owner of ring left in pet store

CT BROOKFIELD — Police are asking the owner of a wedding ring found at a Connecticut pet supply store to come forward to avoid being put "in the dog house."

Brookfield Police posted on Facebook on Sunday that an honest citizen turned in the wedding ring after finding it at the Petco in town.

They didn't post a photo. Authorities say the owner will need to provide a description of the ring and other details to claim it.

THE CENSUS

339

pounds was set in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on Oct. 14.

The weight in pounds of hair donated to charity within a 24-hour period during The Great Cut event in San Diego. The event, organized by The Longhairs, a San Diego-based grooming company, broke the Guinness World Record by one pound. The hair was donated to Children With Hair Loss, a Michigan-based nonprofit that provides wigs to children and young adults affected by medical conditions that cause them to lose their hair. The previous record of 338



QUENTIN WINSTINE, THE JONESBORO (ARK.) SUN/AP

Roped in

Jake Clark, 10, from Morrilton, Ark., climbs through a jungle gym on Tuesday at Rev. Lewellen Park in Jonesboro, Ark. Jake and his sister visited the park during their spring break vacation with their grandmother.

Online users mourn loss of albino raccoon

CA OAKLAND — Social media users in California posted memorial messages in honor of what is believed to be an albino raccoon.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported that Oakland residents posted messages mourning the passing of the animal on the Next Door social networking app.

The newspaper said Oakland resident Pawel Dlugosz posted a photo March 17 of a raccoon that appears to be dead in the Adams Point neighborhood with an orange and flowers laid over its body and at its side.

Arrested man tried to drink in front of deputy

WI PORTAGE — Authorities in southern Wisconsin said a 56-year-old Cambria man arrested on suspicion of his 8th OWI offense tried to drink in

front of a deputy.

According to the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, a vehicle was reported in a ditch in the Town of Fountain Prairie Saturday night. The caller reported the driver wasn't hurt, but "something wasn't right with the driver." The caller gave the man a ride home.

When a deputy arrived, the man had returned in another car. When the man was told he would be arrested, authorities say he tried to grab an open liquor bottle from the vehicle and drink from it.

Police: Windows broken at historic church

VA NORFOLK — Police in Virginia are investigating a burglary and vandalism at a historic church.

Norfolk Police issued a news release saying the vandalism was discovered Saturday morning at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church. Officers observed several shattered windows and saw that a

room in a church building had been vandalized.

The current church building was erected in 1739 but was rebuilt after damage during the Revolutionary War.

Swan released after lead poisoning treatment

WA MOUNT VERNON — A trumpeter swan treated for suspected lead poisoning was released back to the wild.

The Skagit Valley Herald reported the swan was found Jan. 17 when it became entangled in a fence and Mount Vernon Animal Control was called in.

The state Department of Fish and Game also was called in because trumpeter swans are a protected species.

The swan was taken to the Whatcom Humane Society's wildlife rehabilitation center after rescuers noticed it was wobbly and stumbling.

Lead poisoning is a common

affliction for birds that ingest buckshot.

Students' beer honors 'George Squashington'

NH DURHAM — University of New Hampshire students brewed a butternut squash pale ale using home-grown goods.

They say the "George Squashington" brew is reminiscent of the pumpkin ales first developed during Colonial times and will be served during the hospital-ity college's spring dining series April 12-14.

Cheryl Parker, manager of the UNH Brewing Science Lab, said the students brewed a hoppy pale ale that uses English and American Ale yeast, butternut squash, and brown sugar. The base malt is Morris Otter barley from England with caramel malted barley for a sweet, nutty color and flavor.

From wire reports

FACES

Q&A

Beyond
Batman

After 'Gotham,' Ben McKenzie goes from hero to movie bad guy

By LYNN ELBER
Associated Press

Ben McKenzie is looking forward to his next career chapter after "Gotham," both on-screen and behind the camera. During the five years he's starred as Gotham City police detective and future commissioner James Gordon in the Batman prequel, McKenzie wrote two episodes and directed three others.

Writing and storytelling are family traditions: His mother, Frances Schenckan, is a poet, and his uncle, Robert Schenckan Jr., is a Pulitzer- and Tony Award-winning playwright.

"It runs in our veins," McKenzie said.

In an interview with The Associated Press, he talked about the satisfactions of stretching beyond acting, the joy of playing a movie bad guy, and how the "Gotham" finale must thread the needle for its fans and the never-ending Batman saga. The concluding episode, written by showrunner John Stephens, airs April 25 stateside.

McKenzie, 40, who has a daughter with actress-wife Morena Baccarini and is stepdad to her son, also noted the difference between parenting and directing.

Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: More actors are getting involved in the production process than in past years. Why is that?

McKenzie: Nowadays, shows are being made for 15, 10, eight, six episodes. That gives actors and writers and directors more of an understanding of the story we're going to tell. I think an actor who is charged with, for example, being a lead of that project, inevitably has some say in how to structure it. As I get older, I get more interested in being in the room as it happens. Not in a didactic way, not that you're trying to control the process, but that you want to understand how

decisions were made, how we get there, rather than, "Here's your script. Go."

The last episode of "Gotham" you directed, "Legends of the Dark Knight," aired in February. What challenges did it present?

We had a massive fight sequence inside a building that was supposed to be burned out. We had a dog. We had kids. But each episode I direct is a new challenge and it adds to the understanding of the craft, that each challenge has a solution. Whether you get to the solution early or scramble for it. I find it almost always getting done, and you learn from it.

Sounds like home life for a lot of people.

Definitely my home life. We've got a dog and we've got kids. So I guess I've been preparing for this for five years. But I can't run quite as tight a ship at home.

How a series ends is increasingly important to fans. What makes for a memorable finale and what can we expect for "Gotham"?

I think the key is to not wrap it all up in a bow. My favorite series-ender, to show where I'm coming from, is probably "The Sopranos." Just leave them hanging. (Laughs). So we do that here. I think John (Stephens) has written an excellent end to the show, which pays off many of the things we've been promising the audience for so many years, and yet opens the door to a whole other world (of Batman).

You're in films including "The Report" with Adam Driver and the upcoming "Live!" playing the villain opposite Aaron Eckhart. Was that character a welcome change?

It was great. I just loved it. He has an earned point of view but he's a real son of a gun. We shot down in Alabama and I got into the feeling of being back in the South again, (after) growing up in Texas and going to school in Virginia. I have a real fondness for being back there, and this guy had some flair in his talking and how he goes after (Eckhart's character). That was a fun one.

Woodstock 50 lineup
includes Jay-Z, Dead

Associated Press

Jay-Z, Dead & Company and the Killers will headline one of the 50th anniversary shows commemorating the groundbreaking Woodstock festival this summer.

Woodstock co-founder Michael Lang announced Tuesday that Miley Cyrus, Santana, Imagine Dragons, Robert Plant, the Black Keys and Chance the Rapper also will perform at Woodstock 50, which will take place Aug. 16-18 in Watkins Glen, N.Y., about 115 miles northwest of the original site. The event is separate from an anniversary concert planned at the site of the original festival in 1969.

Lang made the announcement during a news conference at Jimi Hendrix's Electric Lady Studios in New York City alongside Common and John Fogerty, who performed at the original Woodstock with Creedence Clearwater Revival. Fogerty and Common will both perform this summer.

More than 80 artists, including Janelle Monae, Brandi Carlile, Halsey and India.Arie, are expected to perform on three main stages at Watkins Glen International racetrack in the Finger Lakes for Woodstock 50.

Songs by Jay-Z, Lauper
added to registry

Albums by Jay-Z and Cyndi Lauper, and a Robert F. Kennedy speech are among 25 recordings being inducted to the National Recording Registry.

The Library of Congress announced Wednesday that "La Bamba," and the original Broadway cast recording of "Hair" are

among the titles tapped for preservation. The national library chose a few more memorable titles, including Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline," Earth, Wind & Fire's "September" and Sam & Dave's "Soul Man."

The registry is adding Kennedy's recorded speech after Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1968 assassination — two months before Kennedy was killed.

Curtis Mayfield's "Superfly," Lauper's "She's So Unusual" and Jay-Z's "Blueprint" album are being added.

Other additions include Nina Simone's "Mississippi Goddam," Sylvester's "You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)" and "Schoolhouse Rock! The Box Set."

The library selects titles for preservation because of their cultural and historic importance to the American soundscape.

Other music news

■ Rock 'n' roll pioneer Jerry Lee Lewis, 83, has been transferred from a hospital to a rehabilitation center following a stroke last month, but will have to cancel upcoming shows. According to a statement from his neurologist released Monday, Lewis is expected to fully recover with aggressive and intensive rehab.

■ Bernie Torme, a guitarist who played with Ozzy Osbourne in the early 1980s, died a day before his 67th birthday, according to his drummer. Mik Gaffney told The Associated Press on Tuesday that Torme died Sunday at a London hospital. Gaffney said Torme had pneumonia in both lungs and was on life support for four weeks.

Wendy Williams living in 'sober house'

Wendy Williams said she's living in a "sober house" because of addiction struggles.

The 54-year-old talk show host tearfully revealed the information Tuesday to the audience at "The Wendy Williams Show." She said the only other people who knew about where she was living up until her announcement were her husband and son.

Williams said she works out after her show and then is driven by her "24-hour sober coach" to a home where she lives "with a bunch of smelly boys who have become my family."

She said she has been addicted to cocaine in the past and never sought treatment.

Coroner: Soap star
died of heart disease

"The Young and the Restless" star Kristoff St. John died of heart disease, with excessive drinking at the time of his death a contributing factor, according to a coroner's report released Tuesday.

Investigators listed "hypertrophic heart disease" as the cause of St. John's death at 52 on Feb.

4 at his home in Los Angeles. "Hypertrophic" means the heart muscle has become abnormally thick, making blood-pumping difficult.

St. John played struggling alcoholic and ladies' man Neil Winters for 27 years on the CBS soap opera "The Young and the Restless."

Other news

■ An unusual ending to "The Bachelor" paid off for ABC. Both parts of the finale to the 23rd edition of the series hit the Nielsen company's top 10 last week, as bachelor Colton Underwood — who started his reign as a virgin — revealed he was dating contestant Cassie Randolph. That wasn't the plan; Underwood jumped a fence to abandon the two women who had been finalists to chase Randolph, who had left the show.

■ Stephen Colbert has postponed what was supposed to be a surprise visit to New Zealand following the terrorist attack in Christchurch that killed 50 people.

From The Associated Press

In his five years starring as Gotham City police detective and future commissioner James Gordon on "Gotham," Ben McKenzie also wrote two episodes and directed three others.

TAYLOR JEWELL, INVISION/AP

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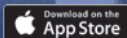
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OPINION

Rich candidates run into anti-wealth cohort

By KATHLEEN PARKER
Washington Post Writers Group

Donald Trump has given success a bad name.

That is, the president's much-boasted-about wealth has soured many Americans' taste for even the Horeau Alger bootstrapping stories. These days, as income inequality has become a leitmotif of Democratic politics, being rich is a liability.

So, who's too rich for democracy these days? Billionaires, obviously. Millionaires are just dimes-a-dozen, they hardly count anymore. Even Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., who has proposed increasing marginal tax rates on the very rich to as high as 70 percent, set the baseline at \$10 million.

Decamillionaires, beware. This caveat might even extend to former Vice President Joe Biden, whose 2017 purchase of a \$2.7 million beach house in Rehoboth Beach, Del., is inspiring fresh speculation about the high-class bona fides. "Middle-Class Joe ranks in millions," read a recent Political headline.

Of course, calling Biden's everyday-Joesness into question is ridiculous. Despite his yachtman's appearance, he has forever been the workingman's champion. But, apparently, you can't have grown up in a middle-class family only to distinguish yourself as an adult and monetize your success. *Isn't that the point of being an American*, (she jested)?

That Biden now earns \$100,000 per speech and landed a handsome, multimillion-dollar book deal hardly negates his lifetime in the Senate advocating causes that benefited minorities, women and working-class Americans. Besides, this

one's for you "Jeopardy!" players, he's from — *Scranton!* Yes, he is.

As Biden accidentally said recently, he has "the most progressive record of anybody running," except that he isn't running — yet. Ol' Joe and his tongue have been wrangling for decades, which is why we love him. He's the guy who can't tell a lie — or keep his own secrets.

Another wealthy possible candidate, former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz, recently has been the focus of skepticism — and not just because he proposes running as a centrist independent. Schultz, on a book tour the past couple of months, has spoken of his childhood growing up in a Brooklyn housing project and his family's dire circumstances. In his book "From the Ground Up," he describes a noisy, smoke-and-alcohol-infused household often filled with poker players who kept him up late and his family afloat during destitute times.

The Washington Post tracked down other contemporaries of Schultz's who grew up in the same housing project to report that it was actually a very nice, state-of-the-art complex. This may be so, but Schultz's experience can't be disproved or discredited. When your parents can't make the \$96 monthly rent, you're not living in paradise.

By the strange political calculus of the income equalizers, Schultz was first too rich and then not poor enough. It would seem that 2020's satirical left will tell everyone is equally miserable. Even Beto O'Rourke ran into a bit of trouble when he off-the-barrio (but not really) was revealed to be a prep-school alum with a near-billionaire father-in-law. Uh-oh. Can an upper-middle-class guy relate to the poor and lower-class Americans?

Of course, he can. As can Schultz and

Biden, and other wealthy people, many of whom share their good fortune through philanthropy, without which millions of the world's most impoverished would suffer or die.

One problem with this wealth-as-liability perspective is that we risk losing the considerable contributions of the uber-successful. What would this crowd say today to Democrats John Kennedy or Franklin Roosevelt, both of whom enjoyed inherited wealth? You don't have to be poor to want to improve opportunities for the less fortunate.

Nor do you always need a government program to create those opportunities. As head of Starbucks, Schultz accomplished through free enterprise what some Democrats want to do through government — for free. He made sure workers, including part-time staffers, had health insurance; he paid college tuition for those who wanted to; and he made it possible for every employee to be a shareholder in the company.

Once upon a time, Americans celebrated others' success and aspired through speculation and sacrifice to share their own circumstances. No more, apparently. The way some Democrats have reacted to candidates running-for-office-while-being-rich merely illustrates the poverty of their ideas.

The anti-wealth sentiment currently in vogue isn't, of course, a rational response to the challenges of our dualistic nation to politicians' barnstorming about inequality, that they say, can only be resolved by punishing the wealthy and subsidizing the rest. If you hear enough times that you deserve to have more, you begin to believe it. Inevitably, this means that others must have less.

Thusly, my friends, is socialism born.

Dems have to decide what to do with Sunshine Boys

By DAVID VON DREHLE

The Washington Post

As Democrats sort through their huge field of candidates, they must first decide about the two old men, Joe and Bernie.

The Sunshine Boys, Biden and Sanders. One's a former vice president. The other's the unlikely fellow who quipped so many pulses last time around. They appear together at the top of every poll. Together they have half, or more, of the early support.

It's just name recognition, their opponents tell themselves — as if name recognition were not the whole point of the exercise at this stage. The quest for name recognition sends candidates down long roads through rolling Iowa fields from fish fry to Ellis Lodge to campus student union. It propels them along winding, baffling New Hampshire byways from one living room to the next. They grovel for money and mug for YouTube. Why? To get their names out there. What want Biden and Sanders already have, because people won't vote for you if they haven't heard of you.

But here's the thing. It's not just name recognition. Biden and Sanders connect with their supporters in ways that could prove quite sticky. They are not a couple of haircuts in standard-issue blue suits. They are the "I thought because they seem so presidential," what better means in the age of President Donald Trump. An entire generation of would-be presidents from Central Casting has gone by the wayside, but these two originals remain. The schmoozer and the loner. The self-described "gaffe machine" and the permanent party of one.

As younger men, they could not have been more different. Biden's politics came from the gut. He played it by feel. He liked to be part of the action, and sometimes that lack of reflection took him places a more circumspect politician would not go. Already, critics of Biden are turning the lens of 2020 on his choices from ages past: his opposition to court-ordered busing to desegregate schools in the 1970s; his handling of testimony as Senate Judiciary Committee chairman from law professor Anita Hill during the Supreme Court confirmation hearings for Clarence Thomas in 1991; his loyalty to white-supremacist and longtime Sen. Strom Thurmond in 2003. Even now, he blurs without calculating.

Even Biden's enemies, if he genuinely has any, would probably not argue that he is defined by racism or sexism. But many notes have been struck in his improvised career, which has been one long jam session complete with sampling, riffing and the tragic experience of the blues.

For Sanders, on the other hand, politics is cerebral. He has a set of ideas, and they light his every step. He entered the business as a civil rights organizer in the 1960s and carried the left-wing flame thenceforth. As mayor of small-town Burlington, Vt., he was perhaps the most prominent socialist of the Reagan 1980s. When he entered Congress as a representative in 1991, he often joined with the Democrats to refuse to open their ranks, and he usually has independent votes. His personal problem is with Democratic women who hold him partially responsible for the fate of Hillary Clinton, whose Wall Street ties he tirelessly denounced in 2016. But he can answer that he would have been just as righteousness-advancing of any male candidate's compromises.

With age, their differences have softened into superannuated similarity. What stands out now is their authenticity, their apparent lack of self-consciousness. With his rumpled clothes and mad-professor hair, Sanders is perhaps the last picture-perfect candidate in the field, and his look seems to say if you don't like it, tough. Biden's look said something similar in the 1990s, after he clearly endured a series of hair transplants. Yet Biden preferred this candor to the weak deception of a toupee, weave or comb-over.

Few politicians remain in the fray long enough for their flaws to ripen into quirks, much less for their quirks to become selling points. Biden recognized the milestone in his memoir published last year. "My reputation as a 'gaffe machine' was no longer looking like a weakness," he observed.

The younger rivals of the septuagenarians will need to do more than catalogue those flaws and quirks in their efforts to bring Biden and Sanders down to earth. A gold-watch strategy is required — a positive message of generational change that acknowledges their contributions even as it shoulders them into retirement.

If such a candidate exists in this bunch, we'll know soon enough. If not, don't be surprised if Democrats decide to let a familiar warhorse carry the party's banner into battle one more time.

David Von Drehle is a Washington Post columnist. He is the author of "Rise to Greatness: Abraham Lincoln and America's Most Perilous Year."

BUSINESS/WEATHER



CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP

Cars enter and leave Fox Studios on Tuesday in Los Angeles. Disney closed its \$71 billion acquisition of Fox's entertainment business on Wednesday in a move set to shake up the media landscape.

Disney closes deal for Fox entertainment assets

Associated Press

Disney has closed its \$71 billion acquisition of Fox's entertainment business, putting "Cinderella," "The Simpsons," "Star Wars" and "Dr. Strangelove" under one corporate roof.

The deal is likely to shake up the media landscape. Among other things, it paves the way for Disney to launch its streaming service, Disney Plus, due out later this year. It will also likely lead to layoffs in the thousands, thanks to duplication in Fox and Disney film-production staff.

By buying the studios behind "The Simpsons" and X-Men, Disney aims to better compete with technology companies such as Amazon and Netflix for viewers' attention — and dollars.

Disney needs compelling TV shows and movies to persuade viewers to sign up and pay for yet another streaming service. It already has classic Disney cartoons, "Star Wars," Pixar, the Muppets and some of the Marvel characters. With Fox, Disney could add Marvel's X-Men and Deadpool,

along with programs shown on such Fox channels as FX Networks and National Geographic.

The deal helps Disney further control TV shows and movies from start to finish — from creating the programs to distributing them through television channels, movie theaters, streaming services and other ways people watch entertainment. Disney would get valuable data on customers and their entertainment-viewing habits, which it can then use to sell advertising.

In addition to boosting the Disney streaming service, expected to debut next year, the deal paves the way for Marvel's X-Men and the Avengers to reunite in future movies. Though Disney owns Marvel Studios, some characters including the X-Men had already been licensed to Fox.

Disney also gets a controlling stake in the existing streaming service Hulu, which it plans to keep operating as a home for more general programming. Family-friendly shows and movies will head to Disney Plus.

Drug to treat postpartum depression approved by FDA

By LINDA A. JOHNSON
Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the first drug specifically developed for severe depression after childbirth.

The agency Tuesday approved Sage Therapeutics' Zulresso, an IV drug given over 2½ days.

Sage said Zulresso will cost \$34,000 without insurance, plus costs for staying in a hospital or infusion center. Whether the treatment gets covered by insurance is determined by each insurance company, which also sets the out-of-pocket costs, depending on the plan.

In a company-funded study of new mothers with moderate or severe postpartum depression, half the women given Zulresso had depression end within 2½ days, about double the rate of those in a comparison group given dummy treatments.

Postpartum depression affects about 400,000 American women a year. It often ends on its own within a couple weeks, but it can continue for months or even years. It can be treated with antidepressants, which can take six to eight weeks to work and don't help everyone, or with counseling.

"Postpartum depression is a serious condition that, when severe, can be life-threatening," Dr. Tiffany Farchione of FDA's Division of Psychiatry Products said in a statement. "Women may experience thoughts about harming themselves or harming their child."

Zulresso's active ingredient,

'Postpartum depression is a serious condition that, when severe, can be life-threatening.'

Dr. Tiffany Farchione
FDA's Division of Psychiatry Products

brexanolone, mimics a derivative of the naturally occurring hormone progesterone, levels of which can plunge after childbirth. The infusion helps restore normal levels and emotions, according to Sage Chief Executive Dr. Jeff Jonas.

The drug's most common side effects were sleepiness, dizziness and headaches. A few women had more-serious problems, such as fainting and loss of consciousness.

Because those risks could result in injury, the FDA said it is restricting Zulresso's use to certified health care facilities where patients can be closely monitored throughout the infusion.

Zulresso appears safe for

breastfeeding, said Dr. Kimberly Yonkers, a psychiatrist specializing in postpartum depression who heads Yale Medical School's Center for Wellbeing of Women and Mothers.

She expects the drug will be used to treat serious cases and patients not helped by antidepressants.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (March 21)	\$1.1656
Dollar buys (March 21)	69.8579
British pound (March 21)	\$1.36
Japanese yen (March 21)	108.00
South Korean won (March 21)	1,102.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3760
British pound	\$1.3182
Canada (Dollar)	1.3333
China (Yuan)	6.6948
Denmark (Krone)	6.5604
Egypt (Pound)	17.7591
Euro	\$1.1359/0.8803
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8499
Hungary (Forint)	276.28
Israel (Shekel)	3.6107
Japan (Yen)	111.42
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3036
Norway (Krone)	8.5372
Philippines (Peso)	52.86
Poland (Zloty)	3.77
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.75
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3505
South Korea (Won)	1,128.85
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9980
Thailand (Baht)	31.73
Turkey (Lira)	4.7975

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance. For Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, for nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.25
Federated funds market rate	4.40
3-month bill	2.39
30-year bond	3.02

MARKET WATCH

March 19, 2019

Dow Jones Industrials	-26.72
	25,887.38
Nasdaq composite	9.47
	7,723.95
Standard & Poor's 500	-0.37
	2,832.57
Russell 2000	-8.94
	1,554.99

WEATHER OUTLOOK

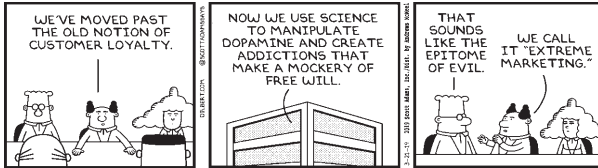


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Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



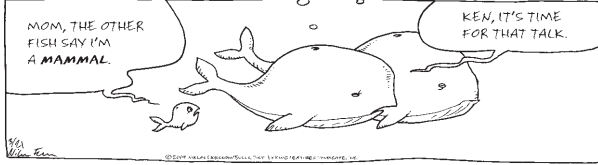
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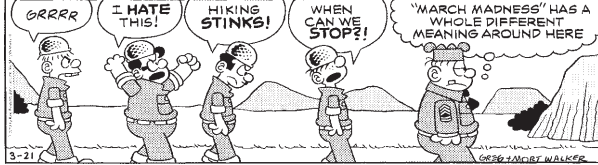
Candorville



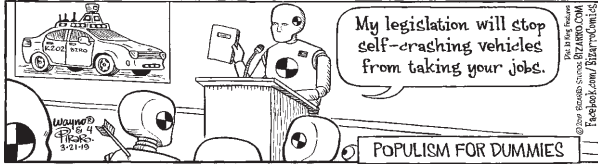
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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51					52				53			
54					55				56			

ACROSS

- 1 Karate level
- 5 Caprice
- 9 Perch
- 12 Writer Wiesell
- 13 Car
- 14 Man-mouse link
- 15 Time between
- 17 "Viva — Vegas"
- 18 Wesley of
- 19 Striped critter
- 21 Symbol of
- 22 Chirp
- 24 Right on the
- 27 — chi
- 28 Evening, in an ad
- 31 Duo
- 32 Grass shack
- 33 Feedbag tidbit
- 34 Big name in scat
- 36 Boom times
- 37 "Mad Money"
- 38 Beetle Bailey's
- 39 boss
- 40 Italian river
- 41 "Untrue!"
- 43 "Jurassic
- 47 Paris pal
- 48 Game for one
- 51 Pouch

- 52 Daring Knievel
- 53 Village People hit
- 54 Exist
- 55 Fill fully
- 56 Fashion line?

DOWN

- 1 Porgy's love
- 2 Carolina college
- 3 Actress Taylor
- 4 Oolong brewer
- 5 Methods
- 6 Shade
- 7 Call — day
- 8 Code name?
- 9 Persia, today
- 10 Puzzle answer
- 11 To-do list item
- 16 "Toy Story"
- 20 Understanding
- 22 Hosiery shade
- 23 Funny folks
- 24 Paris summer
- 25 Piercing tool
- 26 Start of summer
- 27 Hoodlum
- 29 Bar bill
- 30 List-ending abbr.
- 35 Small batteries
- 37 Patients' shares
- 39 Kentucky
- Derby prize
- 40 Bit of butter
- 41 Houston acronym
- 42 Actor Epps
- 43 Anger
- 44 Marathoner's stat
- 45 Killer whale
- 46 500 sheets
- 49 Eggs
- 50 Allow

Answer to Previous Puzzle

D	A	T	A	S	T	E	N	O	S
A	M	O	R	E	R	A	N	A	N
Y	O	U	G	O	T	I	T	D	I
S	I	T	O	U	T	A	P	P	L
				T	R	E	R		
E	V	A	S	E	W	B	A	D	E
L	O	S	T	S	A	C	Y	I	P
F	L	I	R	T	G	A	B	T	A
			S	U	D	S	T	R	
O	D	E	S	A	N	A	T	I	V
D	O	E	S	W	H	A	T	I	S
O	D	I	E	E	M	P	L	A	N
R	O	T	S	D	O	S	E	K	E

3-21

CRYPTOQUIP

XTLFU MCWX OBU LMFSPBLOW

OLR GBMVOVWI ZM QPLSTLZ

OS LTZQS, T CMPWR FOWW

SQUID VURSTDU GBUIUBX.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: LETTERS SENT TO FARM DWELLERS ABOUT HORSES THAT STOP AND REFUSE TO KEEP WALKING: BALK MAIL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals N


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Mobile • Online • Print

USSF — Named Jason Kreis coach of the U.S. Under-23 Men's National Team.

MLB

Scoreboard

American League

	East Division		Pct	GB
	W	L		
Baltimore	0	0	.000	—
Boston	0	0	.000	—
New York	0	0	.000	—
Tampa Bay	0	0	.000	—
Toronto	0	0	.000	—
Central Division				
Chicago	0	0	.000	—
Cleveland	0	0	.000	—
Detroit	0	0	.000	—
Kansas City	0	0	.000	—
Minnesota	0	0	.000	—
West Division				
Seattle	0	0	1.000	—
Houston	0	0	.000	½
Los Angeles	0	0	.000	½
Texas	0	0	.000	½
Oakland	0	1	.000	1

National League

	East Division		Pct	GB
	W	L		
Atlanta	0	0	.000	—
Miami	0	0	.000	—
New York	0	0	.000	—
Philadelphia	0	0	.000	—
Washington	0	0	.000	—
Central Division				
Chicago	0	0	.000	—
Cincinnati	0	0	.000	—
Milwaukee	0	0	.000	—
Pittsburgh	0	0	.000	—
St. Louis	0	0	.000	—
West Division				
Arizona	0	0	.000	—
Colorado	0	0	.000	—
Los Angeles	0	0	.000	—
San Diego	0	0	.000	—
San Francisco	0	0	.000	—

Wednesday's game
Seattle 9, Oakland 7
Thursday's game
Seattle (Kluch 0-0) vs. Oakland (Es-
trada 0-0) at Tokyo

Thursday, March 28
Baltimore at N.Y. Yankees
Detroit at Toronto
Houston at Tampa Bay
Chicago Cubs at Texas
L.A. Angels at Oakland
Cleveland at Minnesota
Chicago White Sox at Kansas City
Boston at Seattle

Friday, March 29
Detroit at Toronto
Houston at Tampa Bay
L.A. Angels at Oakland
Boston at Seattle

Thursday, March 28
N.Y. Mets at Washington
St. Louis at Milwaukee
Los Angeles at San Diego
Chicago Cubs at Texas
Arizona at Dodgers
Cincinnati at Miami
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati
San Francisco at San Diego
Friday, March 29
Colorado at Miami
St. Louis at Milwaukee
Arizona at L.A. Dodgers
Oakland at San Diego

Wednesday
Mariners 9, Athletics 7

Seattle	ab	r	h	bi	Oakland	ab	r	h	bi
D.Gordon 2b	4	1	1	0	L.ureano 5	0	0	0	0
W. Pomeroy 1b	0	0	0	0	M.Chen 3b	5	2	2	3
Bruck 1b-rf	4	1	1	0	Piscotty rf	4	1	1	1
Encino dh	3	2	0	0	K.Davis dh	4	1	1	2
Do.Sntn lf	5	1	1	4	Pinder lf	4	1	2	0
Narvaez c	3	0	0	0	M.Olson 3b	3	0	0	0
Healy 3b-lb	1	1	1	0	Profar 2b	4	0	1	0
Beckham ss	3	3	2	2	Semien ss	2	1	1	1
Suzuki rf	1	0	0	0	Hundley c	2	0	0	0
Vulbach 1b	0	0	0	0	Grismann ph	1	1	0	1
Moore 3b	1	0	0	0	Phelps c	1	0	0	0
Totals	31	9	7	9	Totals	35	7	9	7
Seattle	005	130	000	0	Oakland	112	000	300	0
E-Healy (1), DP--Seattle 2, LOB--Seatt- le 4, Oakland 2, B--Healy (1), M.Chapman (1), Pinder (1), Profar (1), HR--Do.Santana (1), Beckham (1), M.Chapman (1), Pis- coty (1), K.Davis (1), SB-D.Gordon (1), D.Moore (1), CS--Beckham (1), SF--Han- iger (1) 5-2, A-5, FB(46,600).									

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Gonzalez WJ-0	6	7	4	3	1	4
Rumbelow	½	2	3	3	1	1
Garza	½	2	0	0	0	1
Reppert H-1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Strickland S-1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Fiers L-0	3	4	5	5	2	3
Hendricks D	½	2	3	3	1	1
Buchter	½	0	0	0	0	0
Rodney	1	1	0	0	1	2
HBP--by Fiers (Bruce), by Buchter (Fogelbacher), WP--Fiers (Rumbelow, T-524, A-5, FB(46,600).						

Calendar
March 29-31 -- Opening series, Seattle vs. Oakland at Tokyo.

March 28 -- Opening day for other teams, active rosters reduced to 25 players.

April 13-14 -- St. Louis vs. Cincinnati at Monterrey, Mexico.

April 4-5 -- Houston vs. Los Angeles Angels at Monterrey, Mexico.

June 3 -- Amateur draft starts, Secaucus, N.J.

June 13 -- Detroit vs. Kansas City at Omaha, Neb.

Fans fete Ichiro in Mariners' win

BY STEPHEN WADE
Associated Press

TOKYO — Ichiro drew all the cheers. Most everyone else on the Seattle Mariners did all the hitting.

A crowd that came to salute Ichiro Suzuki in his homeland saw Domingo Santana deliver the biggest hit at the Tokyo Dome, a grand slam that sent Seattle over the Oakland Athletics 9-7 Wednesday in the Major League Baseball opener.

Batting ninth and knowing he'd get two plate appearances, Ichiro popped up and worked a walk. The 45-year-old star took his spot in right field to begin the bottom of the fourth inning, then was pulled to another huge ovation. He was met with hugs from the Mariners on the diamond.

"The fans in Japan probably aren't used to the reception I got from my teammates, but it's not that unusual in the majors," Ichiro said.

Mariners manager Scott Servais said Ichiro will play in Thursday's final game of the series, but there is no guarantee he'll start.

"We certainly want to give him an opportunity to go out and play, but we also want to get some other guys in the game," Servais said. "I understand everybody wants to see him go all nine innings. We're trying to do the best thing for the team and Ichiro understands."

This marked the earliest opening day ever — the summer sport actually started on the last day of winter. No doubt, most fans in North America were sound asleep when Oakland's Mike Fiers threw the first pitch at 5:36 a.m. EDT (6:36 p.m. local).

A year after the Cubs' Ian Happ homered on the very pitch of the season, the ball again was flying.

Tim Beckham also homered as several Seattle newcomers excelled. Khris Davis, who led the majors with 48 home runs last year, Stephen Piscotty and Matt Chapman connected for the A's.

"It was great. It's a fun crowd to play in front of. Even the pregame stuff was exciting. I think everybody had a good time," Oakland manager Bob Melvin said.

A packed crowd of 45,787 was buzzing for its favorite star, sending cheers, chants and camera flashes for Ichiro bounding all around the park. Signs and Ichiro jerseys were plenty, too.

Briefly

Source: Bregman, Astros reach deal

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Alex Bregman and the Houston Astros have agreed on a \$100 million, six-year deal that keeps the All-Star third baseman under contract with the team through 2024, according to a person with direct knowledge of the situation.

The agreement includes three years of arbitration eligibility (2020-22) and pushes back Bregman's opportunity to become a free agent by two years. The person spoke Tuesday night on the condition of anonymity because details had not been released by the team. The agreement was first reported by KRIV-FOX 26.

The 24-year-old Bregman made his first All-Star team last season and was selected MVP of the game after hitting a home run

to help the American League win. He set career highs with a .286 batting average, 31 homers, 103 RBIs and a major league-leading 51 doubles, finishing fifth in AL MVP balloting.

The second overall pick in the 2015 amateur draft out of LSU, Bregman has hit .282 with 58 homers and 208 RBIs in 2½ seasons with the Astros, helping them win consecutive AL West titles and the 2017 World Series.

Bregman was limited early this spring after having arthroscopic surgery on his right elbow in January.

The deal means the Astros have Bregman and star second baseman Jose Altuve locked up through 2024.

Also, right-hander Ryan Pressly agreed to a \$20.4 million, three-year contract, a deal that adds \$17.5 million over an additional

two seasons.

The 30-year-old agreed in January to a \$2.9 million, one-year contract that avoided salary arbitration. The deal announced Wednesday keeps that salary and adds \$8.75 million in each of the following two seasons.

Pressley was 2-1 with a 2.54 ERA in 77 games last year for Minnesota and Houston, which acquired him on July 27. He 1-0 with a 0.77 ERA and two saves for the Astros.

No charges for Giants' president, CEO Baer

SAN FRANCISCO — Giants President and CEO Larry Baer will not face charges following a physical altercation with his wife this month that led to him taking a leave of absence from the team.



TORI TAKAHASHI/AP

The Mariners' Domingo Santana hits a grand slam in front of Athletics catcher Nick Hundley in the third inning Wednesday at Tokyo Dome in Tokyo. Seattle won 9-7.

Bruce, who singled for MLB's first hit of the season, and Edwin Encarnacion, who scored twice.

The Mariners won for the 12th time in 15 openers. They also beat the A's in 2012 when MLB last started in Japan.

Seattle starter Marco Gonzales hung in for six innings, allowing three earned runs and seven hits, and got the win. Felix Hernandez had started the last 10 openers for the Mariners.

Hunter Strickland pitched a scoreless ninth for a save in his first game for Seattle. Edwin Diaz, who led the majors with 57 last year, was traded with Robinson Cano to the Mets in the offseason.

Fiers, making his first opening day start at 33, was hit hard for three innings and took the loss.

The San Francisco district attorney's office said Tuesday there isn't evidence to file criminal charges against Baer stemming from his argument with wife Pam on March 1 in a San Francisco plaza.

DA's office spokesman Alex Bastian said, "After a careful review of the relevant evidence, including multiple videos, statements from several witnesses and the parties themselves, the evidence does not support filing criminal charges."

Baer was granted a leave of absence from the team on March 4 following the release of a video that captured the altercation. The video posted by TMZ showed Pam seated in a chair when he reached over her to grab for a cellphone in her right hand and she toppled sideways to the ground in the chair screaming "Oh my God!"

NBA



RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

The Nets' D'Angelo Russell, left, and Rondae Hollis-Jefferson celebrate their 123-121 win over the Kings on Tuesday in Sacramento, Calif. Russell scored 27 of his career-high 44 points in the fourth quarter and Hollis-Jefferson scored the winning basket.

Roundup

Nets rally from 28 down

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Brooklyn coach Kenny Atkinson tried just about everything to kick the Nets into gear. There were quick timeouts, angry, animated discussions with his players and even switching from man to zone defense.

When nothing else worked, D'Angelo Russell and a handful of Brooklyn reserves took over and carried the Nets to an improbable win on their longest road trip of the season.

Russell scored 27 of his career-high 44 points in the fourth quarter, Rondae Hollis-Jefferson made a layup with eight-seconds to a second remaining, and the Nets rallied from 28 points down in the second half to beat the Sacramento Kings 123-121 Tuesday night and snap a four-game losing streak.

"We were at our wit's end, it was kind of desperation," Atkinson said. "It was a little bit like, 'Let's conserve our main guys and kind of play it out.' I wasn't expecting an amazing comeback. I just have to be honest. And then slowly but surely we started cutting the lead."

Brooklyn was sluggish and out of sync for three quarters before Russell sparked the Nets' biggest comeback of the season.

After scoring 17 points in the first half and going without a point in the third quarter, Russell shot 10-for-15 in the fourth quarter, repeatedly burning Sacramento's defense with quick drives to the basket. He scored 16 straight points during one stretch while getting plenty of help from his teammates.

"I give a lot of credit to our bigs," Russell said. "They set screens and got me open, got me downhill. Once you get downhill, any player that can get downhill and see the floor like that and see the rim wide open, the sky's the limit."

Russell's 27 points are the most in a fourth quarter in the NBA this season. Russell also had four three-pointers in the fourth quarter, breaking Allen Crabbe's single-season record of 201, set last season. Russell has 202.

"Once you get in that groove it's hard to get you out of it," Russell said. "No matter what defense a team throws at you, you're going to find a way to get it done. That's kind of what it was."

Hollis-Jefferson had 14 points off the bench, and none more important than his game-winning layup after Sacramento's Marvin Bagley III stepped out of bounds with 5.5 seconds left.

Hollis-Jefferson took the inbound pass from Joe Harris and looked for Russell, who was being double-teamed. With the clock winding down, Hollis-Jefferson drove from near the three-point arc and went around a Kings defender near the hoop to score.

Warriors 117, Timberwolves 107: Stephen Curry scored 22 of his 36 points in the third quarter and Klay Thompson pitched in with 28 points as visiting Golden State beat fading Minnesota and regained first place in the Western Conference.

Jonas Jerabek added 18 points, Kevin Durant scored 17 points and Draymond Green had 10 rebounds and nine assists as the Warriors (48-2), who bounced back from a loss at San Antonio

on Monday and moved a half-game ahead of Denver (47-22) in the race for the top seed. The Nuggets were idle.

Clippers 115, Pacers 109: Danilo Gallinari scored 24 points, Montrezl Harrell had 20 points and 12 rebounds, and host Los Angeles prevented Indiana from clinching a playoff berth.

Clinging to a 110-107 lead, Lou Williams hit a jumper with 40 seconds left to stop a 5-0 run by Indiana.

Bucks 115, Lakers 101: Khris Middleton scored 30 points and Brook Lopez added 28 as host Milwaukee beat Los Angeles.

Milwaukee played without Giannis Antetokounmpo, who is nursing an injured ankle, while LeBron James sat out for Los Angeles due to a sore groin.

Rockets 121, Hawks 105: James Harden had 31 points and 10 assists, Clint Capela added 26 points and 11 rebounds and visiting Houston won its third straight game.

The Rockets have won 12 of 13 and have 10 wins in their last 13 road games.

76ers 118, Hornets 114: Ben Simmons scored 28 points, J.J. Redick had 27 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists and Philadelphia held on to beat visiting Charlotte for its fifth straight victory.

Jimmy Butler added 23 points and nine assists, and Tobias Harris chipped in with 22 points and 12 rebounds for the 76ers (46-25), who remained in third place in the Eastern Conference standings.

Redick finished with seven three-pointers, one shy of his career high.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	50	21	70.4	7
x-Philadelphia	46	25	64.8	11
Boston	38	33	53.6	19
Brooklyn	37	36	50.7	14
New York	14	49	19.7	36

Southeast Division

Miami	34	36	48.6	—
Orlando	33	38	46.5	1½
Charlotte	31	39	44.3	3
Washington	29	41	41.3	4½
Atlanta	24	48	33.3	11

Central Division

x-Milwaukee	35	33	74.6	—
Indiana	44	28	61.1	9½
Detroit	36	34	51.4	10½
Chicago	20	52	27.8	33½
Cleveland	18	53	25.4	35

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	45	26	63.4	3
San Antonio	42	29	59.1	—
New Orleans	31	42	42.5	15
Memphis	31	42	42.5	15
Dallas	28	42	40.0	16½

Northwest Division

x-Denver	47	22	68.1	—
Portland	43	27	61.4	4½
Oklahoma City	42	29	59.1	6
Utah	41	29	58.6	6½
Minnesota	41	29	58.6	16

Pacific Division

x-Golden State	42	28	68.6	—
L.A. Clippers	40	29	58.3	7
Sacramento	34	36	48.6	14
L.A. Lakers	30	40	43.8	17½
Phoenix	17	55	23.6	32

Tuesday's games

Philadelphia 118, Charlotte 114	114
Houston 121, Atlanta 109	109
Golden State 117, Minnesota 107	107
Milwaukee 115, L.A. Lakers 101	101
Brooklyn 123, Sacramento 121	121
L.A. Clippers 115, Indiana 109	109

Wednesday's games

Boston 114, Milwaukee 104	104
Milwaukee at Cleveland	
New Orleans at Orlando	
Utah at New York	
48 Houston at Memphis	
Washington at Charlotte	
Miami at San Antonio	
San Antonio at Oklahoma City	
Dallas at Portland	

Thursday's games

Denver 110, Dallas 104	104
Minnesota at Charlotte	
Detroit at Dallas	
Indiana at Golden State	
Memphis at Cleveland	
Clippers at Denver	
Oklahoma City at Toronto	
Atlanta at Houston	
Miami at Milwaukee	
Brooklyn at L.A. Lakers	

Friday's games

Golden State 114, Portland 104	104
Clippers at Cleveland	
Oklahoma City at Toronto	
Atlanta at Houston	
Miami at Milwaukee	
Brooklyn at L.A. Lakers	

Saturday

Clippers 115, Pacers 109

INDIANA — Bogdanovic 6-12 5-17, Young 18-20 6-0 0-0, Dwyer 2-12 1-10, Holiday 1-3 1-24, Evans 9-16 1-3 19, Totals 48-12 17-109.	
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L.A. CLIPPERS — Shamet 2-8 0-6, Gallinari 8-17 4-4 24, Zubac 4-6 4-4 12, Gilchrist 1-11 1-10 0-0, Matthews 4-10 1-10 0-0, Green 4-6 0-0 0, Chandler 1-5 0-0 0, Harrell 1-2 0-0 0, Williams 4-14 3-5 11, Totals 43-89 19-27 115.	
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Bucks 115, Lakers 101

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L.A. LAKERS — Kuzma 4-17 7-10 17, Muscala 1-6 0-2, McGee 3-7
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NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
z Tampa Bay	73	56	13	4	116	287	191
Boston	73	44	20	9	97	221	185
Washington	73	43	23	7	93	252	226
Toronto	73	43	26	5	93	259	219
N.Y. Islanders	73	42	24	7	91	206	178
Pittsburgh	74	39	24	11	89	251	223
Carolina	72	40	25	7	87	195	198
Columbus	73	40	29	4	84	224	214

Montreal	73	38	28	7	83	215	213
Philadelphia	73	35	30	8	78	223	244
Florida	73	32	29	12	76	236	246
Buffalo	73	31	32	10	71	200	233
N.Y. Rangers	73	28	32	13	69	204	244
New Jersey	74	27	38	9	63	205	253
Vetrol	73	26	40	10	62	198	249
ottawa	72	25	41	6	56	213	263

Western Conference

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x Calgary	73	45	21	7	97	269	208
San Jose	73	43	22	8	94	261	229
Winnipeg	72	43	25	4	90	246	213
Nashville	73	41	27	5	89	232	203
St. Louis	73	38	27	8	84	214	200
Chicago	73	38	29	6	82	188	189
Arizona	73	36	31	6	78	196	204

Minnesota	74	34	31	9	77	200	217
Colorado	73	32	32	12	76	232	240
Dallas	73	32	30	10	74	243	263
Vancouver	73	31	32	10	72	199	225
Edmonton	73	31	34	8	70	204	243
Anaheim	74	30	35	9	69	173	227
Los Angeles	72	29	36	7	65	192	229

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

x-clinched playoff spots

z-clinched conference

Tuesday's games

Carolina 3, Pittsburgh 2, 50

Montreal 3, Philadelphia 1

Detroit 3, N.Y. Rangers 5

Boston 5, N.Y. Islanders 0

Washington 4, New Jersey 1

Colorado 3, Minnesota 1

St. Louis 7, Edmonton 2

Nashville 3, Toronto 0

Dallas 4, Florida 2

Toronto 4, Columbus 2

Wednesday's games

Tampa Bay at Washington

Edmonton at Vancouver

Winnipeg at Anaheim

Thursday's games

Tampa Bay at New Jersey

St. Louis at Carolina

N.Y. Islanders at Montreal

Detroit at St. Louis

Philadelphia at Nashville

Colorado at Dallas

Philadelphia at Chicago

Columbus at Edmonton

Los Angeles at Calgary

Winnipeg at Vegas

Friday's games

San Jose at Los Angeles

Minnesota at Washington

San Jose at Anaheim

Tuesday

Bruins 5, Islanders 0

Boston 5, N.Y. Islanders 0

1st Period—1, Boston, Kuraly (McA-

vey); 1-0, 0-0

2nd Period—2, Boston, Acciari, 4;

2-2, Boston, Kuraly (Heinen), 16:17.

3rd Period—4, Boston, Berron (Nor-

dstrom), 6:32; 5, Boston, De-

Bruks, 23:10.

Shots on Goal—Boston 14-10-15-39.

Power-play opportunities—Boston 0

of 1; N.Y. Islanders 0 of 2.

Goals—Boston, Rask 25-10-5 (13

shots-13 saves). N.Y. Islanders, Lehner

2-2-5 (13 saves).

A-13,917 (13,917). T-2:27.

Predators 3, Maple Leafs 0

Toronto 0, 0-0

Nashville 3, 0-2

1st Period—1, Nashville, 10:18 (Joh-

ansen, Smith), 4:47.

2nd Period—2, Nashville, Simmonds

17 (Ellis, Bonino), 9:13; 3, Nashville, Fors-

berg 26 (Arvidsson, Johansen), 17:51.

Shots on Goal—Toronto 6-8-8-22.

Power-play opportunities—Toronto 0

of 3; Nashville 0 of 1.

Goals—Toronto, Anderson 34-15-4

(19 shots-17 saves). Nashville, Rinne 26-

18-3 (22-22).

A-17,489 (17,413). T-2:18.

Capitals 4, Devils 1

Washington 4, 1-0

New Jersey 1, 0-4

1st Period—1, Washington, Bur-

kowski 12 (Dowd, Connolly), 2:52; 2, Wa-

shington, Agostino 6, 19:59.

2nd Period—3, Washington, Con-

nolly 20 (Djoo, Hagelin), 5:57; 4, Wash-

ington, Kuznetsov 19 (Vranin), 12:16; 5,

Washington, Wilson 21 (Ovechkin, Back-

strom), 13:28.

Shots on Goal—Washington 4-9-9-22.

New Jersey 7-9-9-21.

Power-play opportunities—Washing-

ton 0 of 1; New Jersey 0 of 2.

Goals—Washington, Copley 16-53

(22 shots-20 saves). New Jersey, Black-

wood 7-9-0 (22-18).

A-14,815 (16,514). T-2:20.



From left, the Stars' Tyler Seguin, Alexander Radulov, John Klingberg and Mike Hakeen celebrate after a goal by Radulov during the third period Tuesday against the Florida Panthers in Dallas.

Canadians 3, Flyers 1

Montreal 3, 1-1

Philadelphia 1, 0-2

1st Period—1, Montreal, Gallagher 31

(Folin, Tatar), 18:21.

2nd Period—2, Detroit, Weber 12

(Dom, Shiao), 4:45.

3rd Period—3, Philadelphia, Coutier

30 (van Riemsdyk, Giroux), 8:42 (P,

4, Montreal, Domi 25 (Shaw, Thompson),

18:55.

Shots on Goal—Montreal 11-13-12-36.

Philadelphia 9-16-9-31.

Power-play opportunities—Montreal 0

of 1; Philadelphia 1 of 3.

Goals—Montreal, Price 30-25-23 (33

shots-33 saves). Philadelphia, Hart 14-

10-1 (35-33).

A-19,045 (19,543). T-2:21.

Red Wings 3, Rangers 2

Detroit 3, 1-1

N.Y. Rangers 2, 0-1

1st Period—1, Detroit, Nielsen 10

(Lashoff, Hines), 17:16.

2nd Period—2, Detroit, Athanasios

27 (Rasmussen, de la Rose), 4:30.

3rd Period—3, N.Y. Rangers, Sirome

14 (Buechewich, Shattenkirk), 14:46 (pp,

4, Detroit, Athanasios 28, 19:05; 5, N.Y.

Rangers, Smith 3 (Pronk, Howden), 19:50.

Shots on Goal—Detroit 12-12-36-50.

N.Y. Rangers 17-14-12-43.

Power-play opportunities—Detroit 0

of 1; N.Y. Rangers 1 of 1.

Goals—Detroit, Howard 19-20-45 (43

shots-41 saves). N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist

18-20-10 (37-35).

A-17,183 (18,006). T-2:26.

Hurricanes 3, Penguins 2 (SO)

Pittsburgh 3, 0-1

Carolina 2, 0-1

1st Period—1, Carolina, McConn 9

(Faulk), 8:38; 2, Pittsburgh, Guentzel 37

(Rust, Crosby), 10:16.

2nd Period—3, Pittsburgh, Letang 16

(Rust, Guentzel), 15:23; 4, Carolina, Wil-

liams 22 (Hamilton, Niederreiter), 18:04.

Shots on Goal—Pittsburgh 9 (Kessel, Ng-

Crosby, Ng, Guentzel NG), Carolina 1

(Hamilton 6, Aho NG, Kierlin NG).

Shots on Goal—Pittsburgh 11-7-18-2-

2-8-36-57.

Power-play opportunities—Pittsburgh 0

of 1; Carolina 0 of 1.

Goals—Pittsburgh, Murray 24-12-5

(39 shots-37 saves). Carolina, Mrazek 19-

13-3 (38-36).

A-14,677 (18,680). T-2:48.

Blues 7, Oilers 2

Edmonton 0, 0-2

St. Louis 7, 3-7

1st Period—1, St. Louis, Schwab 8

(Perron, Del Zotto), 11:41.

2nd Period—3, St. Louis, Schwartz 10

(Schwartz, Sundstrom), 6:27; 3, St.

Louis, Schwartz 9 (Bozok, Dunn), 5:42; 4,

St. Louis, Perron 19 (Boumeester, Sun-

dqvist), 7:14; 5, Edmonton, Nugent-Hop-

kins 24 (Lucic, Laroche), 18:26; 6, Edmon-

ton, Kassian 13 (Kierlin), 19:23.

3rd Period—7, St. Louis, Perron 20

(pietrangelo, Schenn), 6:20 (pp), 8, St.

Louis, Maroon 8 (Bozak, Thomas), 13:22;

9, St. Louis, Schwartz 10 (Sanford, Bo-

zak), 18:46 (pp).

Shots on Goal—Edmonton 5-8-4-17.

St. Louis 13-15-16-44.

Power-play opportunities—Edmonton

0 of 1; St. Louis 2 of 6.

Goals—Edmonton, Stolarz 44-23 (44

shots-20 saves). Kosskin 22-18-4 (20-

17). St. Louis, Binnington 18-41 (17-15).

A-17,873 (19,150). T-2:30.

Roundup

Caps take over first in division

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — Brett Connolly has been doing his best Alex Ovechkin imitation the past six weeks and it is coming just in time to help the defending champion Washington Capitals gear up for another Stanley Cup run.

Connolly sparked a three-goal second period and the Capitals moved into first place in the Metropolitan Division with a 4-1 victory over the New Jersey Devils on Tuesday night.

"I have been playing the best hockey probably of my career right now," the 26-year-old forward said after scoring his career-best 20th goal. "I just really want to focus on being good going into the postseason. We have a good team and we are right there again. We're getting close to the level we need to be at."

Since returning from the All-Star break, Connolly has 11 goals. The only other player on the Caps with that many is Ovechkin.

Connolly snapped a 1-all tie at 5:57 of the middle period, redirecting Christian Djose's cross pass into an open net past rookie goaltender Mackenzie Blackwood.

"I went right to 'Juicer" and gave him a big hug. He made a great play on the goal," said Connolly, who also said he would not attend the Capitals' White House trip on Monday in support of a player no longer with the team. "It's been a good season. We have a lot of good players and good guys. It's a good fit for me here and we'll see what happens in the future."

Capitals coach Todd Reirden said Connolly has had a strong

season.

Hurricanes 3, Penguins 2 (SO): Dougie Hamilton scored in the shootout, and Petr Mrazek stopped Pittsburgh cold to lead host Carolina to victory.

Canadiens 3, Flyers 1: Brendan Gallagher, Shea Weber and Max Domi scored goals, Carey Price stopped 32 shots and visiting Montreal earned a win over Philadelphia.

Predators 3, Maple Leafs 0: Pekka Rinne shut out Toronto for the second time this season and Brian Boyle, Wayne Simmonds and Filip Forsberg scored goals to give host Nashville the win.

Bruins 5, Islanders 0: Sean Kuraly scored twice and Tuukka Rask earned his 45th career shut-out and visiting Boston beat New York.

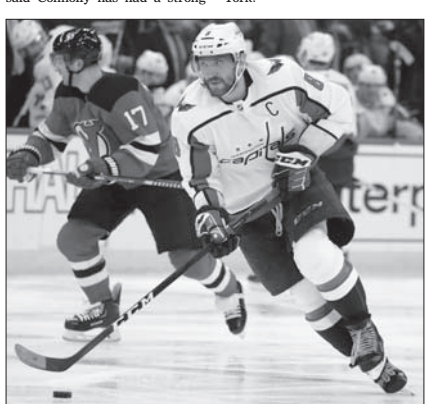
Flames 4, Blue Jackets 2: Johnny Gaudreau scored his team-leading 35th goal and Michael Frolik added a goal and an assist and host Calgary earned a win over Columbus.

Stars 4, Panthers 2: Alexander Radulov had two goals in the third period to lift host Dallas over Florida.

Avalanche 3, Wild 1: Philipp Gubaauer made 36 saves to lift visiting Colorado in a game that had playoff implications in Minnesota and elsewhere.

Blues 7, Oilers 2: Jaden Schwartz had three goals and an assist, David Perron added two goals and two assists, and host St. Louis routed Edmonton.

Red Wings 3, Rangers 2: Andreas Athanasiou scored twice and visiting Detroit beat New York.



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

Calendar

April 6 — Last day of regular season.

SPORTS BRIEFS/NFL

Briefly

Dillashaw vacates title

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — TJ Dillashaw has surrendered the UFC 135-pound championship because of an "adverse finding" in his last drug test.

Dillashaw posted on social media that he would give up the belt after he was informed by the New York State Athletic Commission and the United States Anti-Doping Agency of the results of his test leading up to his last fight in January. Dillashaw suffered a first-round loss to Henry Cejudo and failed to become a two-division champion.

"While words can't even begin to express how disappointed I am at this time, please know that I'm working with my team to understand what has occurred and how to resolve this situation as quickly as possible," Dillashaw said. "Out of fairness and respect to the rest of the division, I've informed the UFC that I'll be voluntarily relinquishing my title while I deal with this matter."

The 33-year-old Dillashaw (16-4) had cut 10 pounds of weight to fight Cejudo. Dillashaw used a program devised by a triathlete math professor and a performance specialist to cut some serious weight in his attempt to hold championships in two weight classes.

He's a two-time bantamweight champion and won the title for

a second time when he defeated Cody Garbrandt at UFC 217 in November 2017.

St. Joseph's fires Martelli after 24 years

PHILADELPHIA — Phil Martelli heckled a CBS broadcaster, rose from a coffin on his own TV show, predicted the Eagles to win the Super Bowl at a chicken wing eating contest and turned a tiny school in Philadelphia into the talk of college basketball.

Martelli was certainly never boring over a 24-year run as head coach at Saint Joseph's, and was never better than in 2003-04 when he led the Hawks to a No. 1 ranking in The Associated Press poll, a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament and a run to the Elite Eight.

Martelli could never duplicate that season in the spotlight, and a string of losing seasons finally caught up the popular coach. "Saint Joseph's fired the 64-year-old Martelli on Tuesday following a third-straight losing season (14-19 this season) and with the Hawks making only three NCAA Tournament appearances since 2004.

"Coach Phil Martelli stands among out among his peers in college basketball not only for his long tenure and the many accolades that he and his teams have achieved, but also for his engagement with the community and

his service as an ambassador for SJU," the school said in a statement. "The University recognizes and celebrates the history and heart that Coach Martelli brought to the program and thanks him for his long service, dedication and stewardship."

Doping probe nabs 21 athletes in five sports

MUNICH — As many as 21 athletes from five sports may have been part of a doping ring stretching around the world, German prosecutors said Wednesday.

Austrian police arrested five competitors at the Nordic skiing world championships last month and the case has since spread to cycling, Munich prosecutor Kai Graeber said the scandal could spread further.

Graeber said blood doping has occurred in at least 10 countries since late 2011 and "there is believed to have been a three-figure number of cases of blood withdrawal and re-transfusion around the world."

The athletes come from eight countries, Graeber said.

Authorities aren't naming suspects or the sports affected, but Graeber said three of the five sports are winter events.

Since the five skiers were arrested last month shortly before a world championship race, another Estonian skier has admitted to



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Mixed martial arts fighter TJ Dillashaw surrendered the UFC 135-pound championship because of an "adverse finding" in his last drug test in January.

doping and two Austrian cyclists who raced in the Tour de France have been suspended.

Five non-athletes have also been arrested including a doctor, Mark Schmidt, who used to work in professional cycling.

NCAA clears QB Martell to play for Miami

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — Tate Martell practiced with the Miami Hurricanes for the first time on Tuesday.

Hours later, he got his first win.

Martell is eligible to play for the Hurricanes this season and will not have to sit out the cus-

tomary transfer year, after the NCAA approved a waiver for the former Ohio State quarterback. Miami announced the verdict about three hours after the Hurricanes' first spring practice and first under new head coach Manny Diaz.

Miami had lobbied for weeks to get Martell eligible, and Ohio State also voiced its support to the NCAA to approve Martell's waiver seeking the right to play this season.

Martell announced his plans to transfer to Miami in January. He redshirted as a true freshman at Ohio State in 2017, and completed 23 of 28 passes in six appearances as Dwayne Haskins' backup for the Buckeyes in 2018.

NFL briefs

Linebacker Matthews gets 2-year deal with Rams

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Linebacker Clay Matthews agreed to a two-year contract with the Los Angeles Rams on Tuesday, returning to his native Southern California after a decade with the Green Bay Packers.

The 32-year-old Matthews set the Packers franchise record with 83½ sacks in his 10 seasons in Green Bay. The former USC star earned six Pro Bowl selections and won a Super Bowl ring with the Packers, although his 3½ sacks last season were a career low.

Matthews went to high school in Agoura Hills, Calif., and he lives in nearby Calabasas. Both towns are a short drive from the Rams' training complex in Thousand Oaks northwest of downtown Los Angeles.

Matthews will contribute to the Rams' pass rush alongside All-Pro defensive tackle Aaron Donald and linebacker Dante Fowler, who re-signed with the NFC champions earlier this month. Nose tackle Ndamukong Suh is still a free agent after his sole season with Los Angeles.

Matthews played four seasons for the Trojans at the Coliseum, where the Rams will play next season before moving into their multibillion-dollar stadium complex in Inglewood in 2020.

Matthews won four Pac-12 titles and three Rose Bowls at USC. He famously walked onto Pete Carroll's roster and redshirted in the Trojans' last national

championship squad before growing into a first-round NFL pick.

Matthews joins veteran safety Eric Weddle and backup quarterback Blake Bortles in the Rams' class of free-agent signings.

Kraft offered plea deal

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Florida prosecutors have offered a plea deal to New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and other men charged with paying for illicit sex at a massage parlor.

The Palm Beach State Attorney's Office confirmed Tuesday it has offered Kraft and 24 other men charged with soliciting prostitution the standard diversion program offered to first-time offenders. The men must concede they would be found guilty, perform 100 hours community service, attend a class on the dangers of prostitution and pay \$5,000 per count, spokesman Mike Edmondson said. Kraft was charged with two counts last month.

In return, the charges of misdemeanor soliciting prostitution would be dropped. Edmondson said none have accepted so far.

Kraft's attorney Jack Goldberger did not immediately return a call seeking comment. The deal offer was first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

Patriots spokesman Stacey James said the team would have no comment.

About 300 men have been charged and

10 massage parlors closed in multiple counties between Palm Beach and Orlando as part of a crackdown on illicit massage parlors and human trafficking. Several operators and employees have also been charged.

Police say Kraft visited the Orchids of Asia Day Spa in Jupiter, Fla., twice in late January just before he flew to Kansas City to see the Patriots defeat the Chiefs in the AFC Championship game.

According to police records, the 77-year-old Kraft was chauffeured to the massage parlor in a 2014 white Bentley on the evening of Jan. 19, where officers say they secretly videotaped him engaging in a sex act and then handing over an undetermined amount of cash.

Investigators said Kraft returned 17 hours later, arriving at the shopping center where the spa was located in a chauffeured 2015 blue Bentley, the documents said. Kraft, who is worth \$6 billion, was videotaped engaging in sex acts before paying with a \$100 bill and another bill, police said. Hours later, he was in Kansas City for the game.

Kraft has denied wrongdoing.

LB Burfict joining Raiders

ALAMEDA, Calif. — The Oakland Raiders have signed linebacker Vontaze Burfict.

The move Tuesday puts Burfict on a

new team one day after he was released by the Cincinnati Bengals, where he spent his first seven seasons. During his time with Cincinnati, Burfict was repeatedly suspended by the NFL for violent hits and for violating the league's policy on performance-enhancers.

One of Burfict's most infamous hits was to the head of wide receiver Antonio Brown late in a playoff game in the 2015 season that helped the Steelers rally for an 18-16 win. Burfict and Brown will now be teammates after the former Pittsburgh star was traded to Oakland.

During his career in Cincinnati, Burfict had 8½ sacks and five interceptions. He made the Pro Bowl in 2013.

Brown signs Lions' offer sheet

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Los Angeles Rams running back Malcolm Brown has signed an offer sheet from the Detroit Lions.

The Rams confirmed the move by their restricted free agent on Tuesday.

Los Angeles has five days to match the Lions' offer, or to let Brown leave for Detroit. The Rams won't get any compensation if they lose Brown, a former undrafted free agent from Texas.

Brown has been Todd Gurley's backup for all four of their NFL seasons. Brown was the primary backup for the past two years, rushing for 458 combined yards.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Scoreboard

FIRST FOUR
At Dayton, Ohio
Tuesday, March 19

Fairleigh Dickinson 82, Prairie View A&M 76
Belmont 81, Temple 70
Wednesday, March 20
N.C. Central (18-15) vs. North Dakota State (16-13)
Arizona St. (22-10) vs. St. John's (21-12)

EAST REGIONAL
First Round
Thursday, March 21
At Jacksonville, Fla.
LSU (26-5) vs. Yale (22-7), **AFN-Sports2 5:30 p.m. Thursday CET, 1:30 a.m. Friday CET**
Maryland (22-10) vs. Belmont (27-5), **AFN-Sports2 8 a.m. Thursday CET, 4 a.m. Friday CET**

At Des Moines, Iowa
Louisville (20-13) vs. Minnesota (21-13), **AFN-Sports 5 p.m. Thursday CET, 1 a.m. Friday CET**
Michigan State (28-6) vs. Bradley (20-14), **AFN-Sports 7:30 p.m. Thursday CET, 3:30 a.m. Friday CET**
Friday, March 22
At Columbia, S.C.
Duke (29-5) vs. N.C. Central-North Dakota State winner, **AFN-Sports Mid Friday CET, 8 a.m. Saturday CET**
VCU (25-7) vs. UCF (23-8), **AFN-Sports 2:30 a.m. Saturday CET, 10:30 a.m. Saturday CET**

At San Jose, Calif.
Mississippi State (23-10) vs. Liberty (28-6), **AFN-Sports 12:15 a.m. Saturday CET, 8:15 a.m. Saturday CET**
Virginia Tech (24-9) vs. Saint Louis (23-12)

Second Round
Saturday, March 23
At Jacksonville, Fla.
LSU-Yale winner vs. Maryland-Belmont winner

At Des Moines, Iowa
Michigan State-Bradley winner vs. Louisville-Minnesota winner
Sunday, March 24
At Columbia, S.C.
Duke-N.C. Central-North Dakota State winner vs. VCU-UCF winner

At San Jose, Calif.
Virginia Tech-Saint Louis winner vs. Mississippi State-Liberty winner

SOUTH REGIONAL
First Round
Thursday, March 21
At Hartford, Conn.
Villanova (25-9) vs. Saint Mary's (22-11)

Purdue (23-9) vs. Old Dominion (26-8)
Friday, March 22
At Columbia, S.C.
Mississippi (20-12) vs. Oklahoma (19-13), **AFN-Sports2 5:30 p.m. Friday CET, 1:30 a.m. Saturday CET**
Virginia (29-3) vs. Gardner-Webb (23-11), **AFN-Sports2 8 p.m. Friday CET, 4 a.m. Saturday CET**

At Columbus, Ohio
Cincinnati (29-5) vs. Iowa (22-11), **AFN-Sports 5 p.m. Friday CET, 1 a.m. Saturday CET**
Tennessee (29-5) vs. Colgate (24-10), **AFN-Sports 7:30 p.m. Friday CET, 3:30 a.m. Saturday CET**

At San Jose, Calif.
Kansas State (25-9) vs. UC Irvine (30-5)
Wisconsin (23-10) vs. Oregon (23-12)

Second Round
Saturday, March 23
At Hartford, Conn.
Purdue-Old Dominion winner vs. Villanova-Saint Mary's winner

Sunday, March 24
At Columbia, S.C.
Virginia-Gardner-Webb winner vs. Mississippi-Oklahoma winner

At Columbus, Ohio
Tennessee-Colgate winner vs. Cincinnati-Iowa winner



JOHN MINICILLO/AP

Belmont's Kevin McClain shoots over Temple's Shizz Alston Jr. during the first half of a First Four game on Tuesday.

Belmont, Fairleigh Dickinson rally for first ever victories

McClain leads Bruins' second-half run in Temple Dunphy's last game

By JOE KAY
Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — A few seconds were still left on the clock when Fran Dunphy headed to midcourt for his final postgame handshake, the outcome long decided. Belmont was simply too much for his Owls.

Nobody else in the NCAA Tournament is excited to face their efficient offense, either.

Kevin McClain scored 29 points and led the decisive second-half run as Belmont got its first NCAA Tournament win, pulling away to an 81-70 victory Tuesday night and ending Dunphy's career in the First Four.

The 11th-seeded Bruins (27-5) play Maryland on Thursday in the East Region.

"We belong in this tournament," said McClain, who finished two points shy of his career high. "You can see that."

Belmont got an at-large bid after losing to Murray State in the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament title game. The Bruins showed the selection committee's faith was not misplaced, getting the breakthrough win on their eighth try.

"I think that they can play in this atmosphere and this is im-

portant," coach Rick Byrd said. "I didn't think many times we played well, or knew what we were in offensively, but they found a way to win. And you never play perfect, and I think they've got some toughness about them."

The loss sent Temple (23-10) into a transition. Dunphy is retiring after his 13th season at Temple, where he replaced John Chaney.

Dunphy previously coached 17 seasons at Penn.

"The game of basketball has given me way more than I have given to it," Dunphy said.

He was hoping to coach another day, but Belmont's high-scoring offense pulled away at the end. Senior guard Shizz Alston Jr. led the Owls with 21 points.

"That team is smart," Alston said. "They only do what they're good at."

The Bruins entered the tournament second in the nation at 87.4 points per game. The Owls' aim

'We belong in this tournament. You can see that.'

Kevin McClain
Belmont's leading scorer

Belmont's leading scorer

Belmont's leading scorer

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Belmont's leading scorer

was to slow the high-percentage offense just enough to give themselves a chance. Temple hung in during a first half that featured five lead changes and ended with Belmont ahead 37-31.

The Bruins pushed their lead to 11 points by hitting their first two shots in the second half. Alston, who led the American Athletic Conference at 19.7 points per game, hit three three-pointers as the Owls surged ahead 50-46.

Alston scored at least 20 points in each of his last nine games.

McClain led a 16-3 run that put Belmont ahead to stay.

The Bruins' balanced offense had more than enough even though leading scorer Dylan Windler was held to five points on 2-for-7 shooting, matching his season low. Windler came in averaging 21.4 points.

Six-foot-11 freshman center Nick Muszynski, who missed the OVC title game with a sprained left ankle, started Tuesday and had 16 points and four rebounds. He wore a protective boot after the game.

"I thought he played terrific," Byrd said. "We just didn't know what we were going to get. Frankly, yesterday in practice he didn't look very good at all. But he really showed a lot today."

Edge, Jenkins help Knights overcome terrible start to advance

By MITCH STACY
Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — Eleven months ago, Fairleigh Dickinson coach Greg Herenda was seriously ill with life-threatening blood clots. On Tuesday night, he danced on the court and hugged his players after they secured the first NCAA Tournament win in school history.

Senior guard Darnell Edge scored a career-high 33 points and Jahli Jenkins had 20 of his 22 points in the second half as the Knights capped a furious comeback by taking down Prairie View A&M 82-76 in a First Four game on Tuesday night.

"It's overwhelming," said Herenda, in his sixth season at the Hackensack, N.J., school. "When you coach for 35 years and you take a team to an NCAA Tournament and a team that, when I got here six years ago, we had nothing. And to build it, and then it's here, and it's so sad that every coach can't experience this."

Fairleigh Dickinson (21-13), which got the automatic tournament bid by winning the Northeast Conference Tournament, won its first NCAA tournament game in six tries. The Knights move on to play Gonzaga, the No. 1 seed in West Region, on Thursday in Salt Lake City.

Prairie View (22-13), also seeking its first tournament win, built up 13-point leads in both halves, but Fairleigh Dickinson took control in the second half behind the shooting of Edge and Jenkins.

"Jahli Jenkins has the biggest heart in Ohio right now," Herenda said. "As a sophomore, he took over the game in the second half."

A three-pointer by Gary Blackston pulled Prairie View back to within two points, 78-76, but a layup from Mike Holloway Jr. and a pair of free throws by Edge with 17 seconds left sealed it for Fairleigh Dickinson.

Blackston led the Panthers with 26 points and



JOHN MINICILLO/AP

Fairleigh Dickinson's Darnell Edge shoots over Prairie View A&M's Antione Lister on Tuesday. Edge scored a career-high 33 points.

Devonte Patterson had 17.

"Having coach go through that last year, I remember us being in practice and him always just telling us that he just wanted to be there with us," Edge said. "All he thought about while he was in the hospital was us. So we rallied together, and it's just a great win for us, for our program."

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Share: Vermont's Lamb no stranger to big stage

FROM BACK PAGE

Lamb has been on this stage before with Vermont.

As a freshman, he scored 20 points and pulled down nine rebounds in an 80-70 NCAA Tournament first-round loss to Purdue.

"I learned that the moment's really not as big as you think it is," Lamb said. "You can really overwhelm yourself if you put too much weight on it. Just having fun and just playing basketball like it's supposed to be played, enjoy the game and enjoy the sport is the purpose of it. Just taking that in hand and bringing that forth with me into competition really allows me to stay relaxed, stay confident and just play basketball how I know I can."

Lamb's come a long way in the two years since that Purdue game.

He leads the America East Conference in scoring (21.4) and ranks second in rebounding (7.8), making him the clear choice as the league's player of the year.

A look at some of the players from one-by-one games worth keeping an eye on:

Jonathan Galloway

Forward, UC Irvine

First game: Friday vs. Kansas State in San Jose, Calif.

Most of the people on this list are here because of their scoring ability. Galloway is included because of his defense. The 6-10 fifth-year senior averages only 7 points a game, but he's a three-time Big West Conference defensive player of the year who broke UC Irvine's 44-year school record for career rebounds.

Rapoulos Ivauskas

Forward, Colgate

First game: Friday vs. Tennessee at Columbus, Ohio.

Colgate won its first Patriot League title in 23 years thanks in part to Ivauskas, the league's player of the year. Ivauskas began his college career at Northwestern but struggled with injuries in two seasons before transferring. The 6-10 junior is healthy this year and averaging 16.4 points and 7.9 rebounds.

Fletcher Magee

Guard, Wofford

First game: Thursday vs. Seton Hall at Jacksonville, Fla.

Magee will likely become the most prolific three-point shooter in NCAA Division I history at this tournament. The Southern Conference player of the year has made 502 career three-pointers and is only two behind Division I record-holder Travis Bader, who made 514 from 2010-14. Magee leads all Division I players with 151 three-point baskets this season.

CJ Massinburg

Guard, Buffalo

First game: Friday vs. Arizona State or St. John's at Tulsa, Okla.

Massinburg is a two-time first-team all-Mid-American Conference selection and the reigning MAC player of the year. He averages 18.3 points, 6.6 rebounds

and 3.3 assists. The 6-3 senior had a 43-point outburst in a victory over West Virginia and a 25-point performance in a win at Syracuse.

Drew McDonald

Forward/center, N. Kentucky

First game: Friday vs. Texas Tech at Tulsa, Okla.

McDonald is a three-time, first-team all-Horizon League performer who was named the league's player of the year this season. The 6-8 senior leads the Horizon League in rebounding (9.6) and ranks second in scoring (19.1). His three-pointer with 1.3 seconds left gave Northern Kentucky a 64-63 victory over Oakland in the Horizon League semifinals.

Rickey McGill

Guard, Iowa

First game: Friday vs. North Carolina at Columbus, Ohio.

McGill is the first player in Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference history to play on four conference tournament championship teams. He was named the most valuable player of this year's MAAC Tournament. The 6-2 senior averages 15.5 points and 5 assists.

Miye Oni

Guard, Yale

First game: Thursday vs. LSU at Jacksonville, Fla.

Oni is the Ivy League's player of the year and ranks third in the league in scoring (17.4), third in assists (3.5) and tied for eighth in rebounding (6.4). The 6-6 junior scored 29 points in a victory over Miami. He had 12 points, nine rebounds and five assists in a loss to Duke.

Vasa Pusica

Guard, Northeastern

First game: Thursday vs. Kansas at Salt Lake City.

This fifth-year senior from Serbia scored 20 points in an early season upset of Alabama. Pusica scored 21 points and shot 7-for-12 from three-point range as Northeastern surprised Hofstra in the Colonial Athletic Association championship game. The San Diego transfer averages 17.8 points and 4.2 assists.

D'Marcus Simonds

Guard, Georgia State

First game: Friday vs. Houston at Tulsa, Okla.

Simonds is back on this stage after scoring 24 points in an NCAA Tournament loss to Cincinnati last season. The 6-3 junior was named Sun Belt player of the year last season and earned first-team all-conference honors again this year. He averages 18.4 points.

B.J. Stith

Guard, Old Dominion

First game: Thursday vs. Purdue at Hartford, Conn.

Stith is the son of Bryant Stith, a former NBA player who remains Virginia's all-time leading scorer. Stith started his college career at Virginia before transferring to Old Dominion, where his dad's an assistant coach. The 6-5 senior is the Conference USA player of the year and averages 16.9 points and 7.4 rebounds.



KUICHIRO SATO/AP

Minnesota head coach Richard Pitino will see a familiar foe in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. The Golden Gophers face Louisville in their opener, a team that fired his father two seasons ago.

Pitino intrigue hits TV for Louisville-Minnesota

By DAVE CAMPBELL

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Richard Pitino sat calmly in the middle of the room, his eager players flanking him and his restless children in front of him on the floor, as the teams with NCAA Tournament bids flashed on a big screen.

There went Louisville, an awfully familiar name.

Next came Minnesota, his current team.

Pitino simply smiled, fully and immediately aware of the extra intrigue created by the selection committee with this East Region matchup of No. 7 and 10 seeds.

The madness of March has been built on all those low-major upsets and buzzer-beating swishes that bust up the office-pool brackets, but some of the must-see TV each year is arranged before the opening tip.

The Louisville-Minnesota game is one of those predetermined talkers, pitting Pitino and the Gophers against the storied program that fired his father, Rick Pitino, prior to the 2017-18 season in response to the federal investigation into a nationwide college basketball bribery and corruption case. Richard Pitino served two stints as an assistant with the Cardinals under his dad, who has been coaching a professional team in Greece this season.

"Has he talked about Louisville the last two years? Yeah, he has not in the most positive light," Pitino said. "It's not going to be, 'Oh, it's revenge,' or anything like that. It's about our players. It's about this program."

The Gophers will go to the NCAA Tournament for a second time in six seasons under Pitino.



TONY DEJAK/AP

Buffalo coach Nate Oats could wind up facing his former boss, Bobby Hurley, on Friday in the first round if Arizona State beats St. John's on Wednesday.

"We know he's been there a long time, his dad's been there, but we can't make it all about the Pitino family," senior shooting guard Dupree McBrayer said. "This is a team game."

The Cardinals and Gophers face off on Thursday. That was far from the only assignment made by the committee that carried a dimension beyond the matchups on the court, of course.

Buffalo got a fresh look at its first opponent when Arizona State played St. John's in a First Four game on Wednesday. If Arizona State wins the right to face Buffalo on Friday afternoon in Tulsa, Okla., well, Bulls coach Nate Oats sure won't be surprised. Sun Devils coach Bobby Hurley just so happened to be his boss, before Hurley left for Arizona State and Oats was promoted by Buffalo.

As the final quarter of the bracket, the West Region, was

revealed, Oats had an inkling his Bulls, the No. 6 seed, would wind up next to the Sun Devils.

"You think it was a coincidence? Yeah, me neither. It's TV," Oats said.

After Hurley directed Buffalo's first NCAA Tournament berth in 2015, Oats has now steered the Bulls to three in four years.

"Coach Hurley gave me my shot, I pull for him," Oats said. "We talk a lot. Emotionally, it's not going to be fun. For his sake, I hope they get the win."

If UCF, the No. 9 seed in the East Region, can beat No. 8 VCU, coach Johnny Dawkins will be subject to the same type of mixed emotions. The second-round pairing for the Knights would probably be Duke. Dawkins both played for and coached under Blue Devils maven Mike Krzyzewski.

The coaches are a major part of the story in March, but they'll always be on the bench. The players are the true stars of the show, and there are no greater individual standouts than Marquette's Markus Howard and Murray State's Ja Morant. Well, guess what? They're scheduled to play each other right away, too.

Marquette is the No. 5 seed in the West, facing No. 12 Murray State on Thursday. Nobody in the tournament has scored more this season than the 5-foot-11 Howard (sixth in the country with an average of 25.0 points per game) and the 6-foot-3 Morant (eighth with 24.6 points per game). The sophomore Morant, a dynamic dunker, also leads the nation with an average of 10.0 assists per game. The junior Howard hit the 45-point mark three times.

AP Sports Writer John Sawrow in Buffalo, N.Y., contributed to this report.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

No. 11 St. Mary's aims for another upset

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
Associated Press

MORAGA, Calif. — Randy Bennett has earned seven NCAA Tournament bids, made one trip to the Sweet Sixteen and turned a two-win team into one of the winningest on the West Coast since arriving to coach at tiny Saint Mary's nearly two decades ago.

This year's trip to the tournament might be the most unexpected, and gratifying, of Bennett's career.

His rebuilding Gaels weren't supposed to get here — not this year, anyway. It was last season's experienced group that went 30-6, won 19 straight games and absolutely planned to be playing on the big March stage only to be left out on Selection Sunday.

"The whole way we thought we'd be in," Bennett said.

And this season? The odds were against the Gaels.

Saint Mary's certainly wasn't supposed to beat No. 1 Gonzaga last week to steal away the West Coast Conference Tournament title and automatic NCAA bid.

"Just to win that tournament is hard, because you've got Gonzaga in the way," Bennett said. "They win it so often, and this year they're really good, so it isn't something you count on. 'Hey, we'll just win the conference tournament,' you got to go through No. 1 in the country to do it. Didn't really see it coming. I knew we were playing better."

So, imagine how much less daunting it feels now for the 11th-seeded Gaels (22-11) to go cross-country for a first-round game against defending champion and No. 6 seeded Villanova on Thursday in Hartford, Conn.?

Not to mention the Gaels' lone trip to the Sweet Sixteen came from an upset of second-seeded Villanova in 2010 as a 10th seed. That had been the only win in program history against a top-10 team until the victory over Gonzaga in Las Vegas last



JOHN LOCHNER/AP

St. Mary's Jordan Ford dribbles around a Gonzaga player during the West Coast Conference Tournament championship last week. Saint Mary's certainly wasn't supposed to beat the No. 1 Bulldogs and steal away the automatic NCAA bid.

week. There's a reminder of that Sweet Sixteen trip in the hallway outside the locker room that the players see as they walk out to practice each day in McKeon Pavilion.

"We know that we can beat anybody," leading scorer Jordan Ford said. "Since we beat the No. 1 team in the country, and to be able to see and play against the No. 1 team in the country three times this year, we know that we can hang with anybody."

Things began to turn around for Saint Mary's after a 94-46 thumping at Gonzaga on Feb. 9.

Ford, a junior guard averaging a team-best 21.3 points, and senior center Jordan Hunter spoke up in a hurry. They reminded their teammates everyone must remain positive. Saint Mary's started defending better, then won five straight games that

included lopsided road victories at Pacific and San Diego before a 69-55 home defeat to Gonzaga on March 2 in which the Gaels hung tough deep into the game.

Then Saint Mary's pulled off the improbable: stunning the favored Zags 60-47 for the WCC tournament title.

"It's just a great feeling to knock off the No. 1 team in the country. It doesn't happen that often," Ford said. "To play the defending national champions is just another great opportunity for us."

Bennett received 40 congratulatory text messages that night, his record. He allowed his players to celebrate the upset and be proud for a short time, then it was time to return to work.

"There's no bumps in the tournament," Hunter noted.

The good vibes through the selection show knowing they were in was a drastic difference for the Gaels from being on the bubble a year ago and not getting in.

"Oh, man. I still remember that like it was yesterday," Ford said. "We were all at Coach Bennett's house and they listed all the teams, they did it in alphabetical order and they skipped our names. We were just dead silent when we walked out. It still stings."

Despite all the chatter about a basketball rebuild on this campus tucked away in the suburban East Bay hills, the players weren't going to let that affect their postseason goals.

"My first three years I've been part of three tournament teams, only one of which made it," said Hunter. "We get to read all the articles about how we were snubbed. We try not to feed the narrative too much with all the rebuilding stuff and all that. We knew we had a great group of guys that just didn't have as much experience as the teams that had come before, by the nature of having such great players ahead of us having such great seasons. We knew with a few reps playing with each other, which is obviously important as just getting better yourself, it would take us a long way."

Bennett knew the Gaels would have to topple Gonzaga to land a spot in the NCAA bracket. There was almost no time for scouting, having played until 10:30 p.m. the previous night with a quick turnaround to the final.

"These guys are beatable," Bennett told his team, "and to get to the tournament you are going to have to beat them."

Now, Saint Mary's is going to enjoy this ride — one it wants to last a while. That will mean another upset this week.

"It's a bit surreal. We probably don't realize what we've accomplished, but we've gotten two good days of practice so that brings you down to earth, for sure," Hunter said. "We're definitely riding high. We'll be ready to roll."

Gators' Hudson ready to take on ex-teammates

BY MARK LONG
Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Jalen Hudson sent one text seconds after Florida's NCAA Tournament pairing was announced.

The senior messaged the eyes emoji to close friends, former Amateur Athletic Union teammates and current Nevada standouts Caleb and Cody Martin.

"They're like family," Hudson said Monday.

The guard trio played four years together in AAU basketball and squared off twice in the Atlantic Coast Conference while Hudson was at Virginia Tech and the twins were at North Carolina State. They split those head-to-head meetings.

The rubber match comes Thursday night with considerably more at stake.

Hudson and the Martins will share the court in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament in Des Moines, Iowa. Hudson and the 10th-seeded Gaels (19-15, 9-9 Southeastern Conference) hope to keep playing their best basketball in the postseason while the twins and seventh-seeded Ne-

vada (29-4, 15-3 Mountain West) will try to get back on track after losing more games (three) in the last 3½ weeks than they did in the season's first 3½ months.

"It's going to be a battle with my boys," Hudson said. "It's going to be fun."

It also will be bittersweet for either Hudson or the Martins since it will be the collegiate finale for the losing side.

"It's crazy it's going to end up like this," Caleb Martin said. "We'll be ready for it."

All three could be key players in the matchup at the Wells Fargo Arena.

The 6-foot-6 Hudson has taken his game to another level down the stretch. After finding more lows than highs through the first three months of the season, he's scored in double figures in eight of Florida's last nine games. He averaged 15.3 points during the stretch and given coach Mike White another dependable scorer alongside fellow senior KeVaughn Allen.

"He's been really locked in from a scouting report standpoint, even within game huddles,"

White said. "Jalen's really stepped up with how vocal he's being and how engaged he is, especially defensively. He's made a big jump, and I think it's carried over to him, obviously, getting more minutes and doing more offensively."

The Martins have been stout all season, averaging a combined 30.9 points, 9.6 rebounds and 9.4 assists for the Wolf Pack.

The 6-foot-7 Caleb is the team's leading scorer at 19.2 points a game and tops the team with 105 three-pointers and 45 steals.

Cody, a minute older than Caleb, is averaging 11.7 points, 5.1 assists and 4.5 rebounds to go along with 43 steals and 23 blocks.

All three will be able to help with the scouting report this week.

"One of them is more of a scorer, Caleb Martin," Hudson said. "He's kind of a volume guy. Once he gets hot, it's super hard to kind of slow him down ... Cody's more of a like a point guard, more of a passer ... They're both super versatile. They're very good players, very, very good players. I think they'll play at the next level for sure."

Naturally, the Martins had

equal praise for Hudson.

"He's really, really good," Cody said. "He's athletic. He can shoot the ball. He's a pro. We've kept up with him throughout the whole season, last year, even when we were going through the (transfer) process, too. That's one of our good friends. He can play."

The three have played countless games together for an AAU basketball program that has travel teams in Virginia and North Carolina, where they grew up. They also played twice against each other in the ACC and kept close tabs on their careers since.

The brothers won the first meeting in February 2015, with Cody chipping in eight points off the bench. Caleb didn't play, and Hudson saw one minute of action.

Hudson scored 23 points and won the rematch 11 months later in overtime. Caleb had 14 points, and Cody added seven.

The trio decided to transfer a few months later.

Now, all three are in the NCAA Tournament again — and matched up against each other in the postseason for the first and last time.

"It's going to be super excit-



GARY MCCULLOUGH/AP

Florida guard Jalen Hudson will face his former Amateur Athletic Union teammates and current Nevada standouts Caleb and Cody Martin on Thursday in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

ing," Hudson said. "They're super competitive. But it's going to be a war, obviously, especially at this time in the season. It's going to be a war even though they are considered family."

SPORTS



Home-field advantage

Ichiro, Mariners win Tokyo opener
in front of 45,000 » **MLB, Page 25**

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Overlooked

Teams from one-bid conferences
have their share of great players

BY STEVE MEGARGE
Associated Press

Vermont's Anthony Lamb is among several players from one-bid conferences capable of leading their teams to major upsets in the NCAA Tournament.

The 6-foot-6 junior forward scored 24 points against Kansas and 25 points against Louisville in the NIT Season Tip Off in November. Although Vermont lost both games, Lamb surely has Florida State's attention.

Vermont (27-6) is the No. 13 seed in the West Regional and faces the Seminoles (27-7) on Thursday at Hartford, Conn.

"I don't really associate the names with the schools," Lamb said. "I think no matter who you are, you have to prove your worth on the court every time you step onto it. I'm just looking forward to going out there and testing my weight versus them and making sure they have to prove themselves to me."

'I learned that the moment's really not as big as you think it is.'

Anthony Lamb
Vermont forward

Other notable performers on NCAA Tournament teams from one-bid leagues include Wofford's Fletcher Magee and Buffalo's CJ Massinburg.

Murray State guard and likely NBA lottery pick Ja Morant will likely have one or two highlight-reel moments but isn't on this list because the Ohio Valley Conference became a multiple-bid league for the first time since 1987 with both Murray State and Belmont making the field.

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Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Tournament MVP Rickey McGill celebrates cutting a piece of the net on March 11 after Iona beat Monmouth for the tournament championship.

HANS PENNINK/AP

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Nets rally from 28 down, stun Kings

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